

CONCRETE FIREPLACE SURROUND & WALL PANELS: PREPARATION FOR INSTALLATION

Trueform Concrete wall panels, fireplace surrounds, and similar products hold to certain standards and installation recommendations. When multiple panels are used to fill a wall space, the panels are fabricated to **end flush to building finishes** while typically holding a **1/8" to 3/16" gap between each concrete piece**. Exceptions do occur; for example, on a fireplace surround project which includes a hearth, the bottom fireplace surround piece would meet the hearth as a seam.

Keep in mind that the quality of the installation of Trueform products can only match the quality of the installation of existing finishes and fixtures. For example, if the drywall is not straight and plumb, panels and surrounds will only sit flush where the wall bulges out the furthest. This may also cause concrete seams to misalign. Similarly, on a fireplace surround project, the firebox must be level and square to the wall.

Trueform recommends the following materials to mount concrete wall panels to cement board:

- Silicone
- TEC Super Flex™ Premium Latex Modified Thin Set Mortar
- ARDEX X 32™ Microtec - Thinset to Deep Bed
- Laticrete 310 Rapid Set 2 Part Epoxy

Do **NOT** use unmodified mortar, Liquid Nails, or mastic to mount Trueform wall panels. These materials tend to not set and dry quickly enough for proper adhesion. They also encourage the concrete to cup or curl, and may therefore compromise the bond between the cement board and the concrete panel.

PANELS: RECOMMENDED PREPARATION



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*FIREPLACE
SURROUNDS*

*1/8" - 3/16" GAP
BETWEEN PANELS*

*FLUSH SEAM
AGAINST HEARTH*

Once again, the quality of the installation of Trueform products can only match the quality of the installation of existing finishes and fixtures.

GAP

*FLUSH AT
DRYWALL
BULGE*

GAP

A COMMON PROBLEM OCCURS WHEN THE DRYWALL IS NOT STRAIGHT AND PLUMB. HERE, PANELS AND SURROUNDS WILL ONLY END FLUSH AGAINST THE WALL WHERE IT BULGES THE FURTHEST. THIS MAY ALSO CAUSE CONCRETE SEAMS TO MISALIGN.

FOR A FIREPLACE SURROUND PROJECT, THE FIREBOX MUST BE LEVEL AND SQUARE TO THE WALL.