



## Installation Guidelines for Non-Combustible 3-pc Balmer Overmantels

### Tools and Materials Required:

1. High-strength non-water-based construction adhesive
2. Measuring tape
3. Paintable caulk
4. 3"-long wood screws
5. Bracing material
6. Power drill

**Balmer Overmantel material meets the requirements for non-combustibility when tested in accordance to ASTM E-136.**

Please refer to the respective Balmer Fact Sheet accessible from our website at [www.balmer.com](http://www.balmer.com) for component dimensions.

### Overview

3-pc Balmer Overmantels are available in Gypsum or Thin Cast material and are typically installed directly on the top shelf surface of the Balmer Mantels. 3-pc Balmer Overmantels are installed AFTER the installation of the mantel is completed.

**Note:** Make sure the top of the mantel shelf is level, as it will dictate the level of the overmantel that sits directly on top.

Handle products with care to avoid damage to ornamental surfaces and fracturing of components. Avoid unnecessary contact of exposed faces of components with objects that may scratch or scuff surfaces. Carry components on edge and store in original packaging at room temperature.

Overmantels are ideally applied to solid, stable, flat substrates such as plaster or drywall. Wood surfaces are typically not stable and may cause cracks in the product or filled joints.

If required by room height restrictions, the top of the overmantel legs may be cut. When set in place, the height of each overmantel leg must be identical to ensure a level overmantel shelf.

Overmantel may be secured using a high-strength non-water-based construction adhesive that is suitable for plaster or masonry material and potentially high temperature application.

(OVER)

## **Installation**

1. Install overmantel legs. Layout the overmantel legs and shelf on the floor as they would be installed on the wall. Make sure overmantel shelf and legs are square. The top of each overmantel leg should be set within the recess cast into the underside of the overmantel shelf. Measure and record the inside distance between legs. Locate the center of the mantel shelf top and draw a pencil line. Measure and draw a pencil line one-half the recorded distance between legs on both sides of the mantel shelf center. The inside edges of the overmantel legs should be positioned at the respective pencil lines. Apply a generous and continuous bead of adhesive to ensure continuous contact between wall and bedding surface of the overmantel legs. Brace overmantel legs securely until the adhesive sets.
2. Install overmantel shelf last. Apply a generous amount of adhesive to the bedding surfaces of the overmantel shelf. Set overmantel shelf so that the top of legs are positioned within recesses cast into underside of the shelf. Use bracing to secure the overmantel shelf tight to the wall until the adhesive sets.

For additional security, install two (2) – 3”-long wood screws on an angle into the top of the overmantel shelf and into wall studs. Drill pilot holes first and countersink so that screw heads are located below the surface of the overmantel shelf. Mix the filler powder provided with water to create a workable paste. Fill screw holes and tool to a textured finish.

## **Finishing**

If required, fill gaps around the outer perimeter of the overmantel with a paintable latex caulk and tool to a smooth finish. For Thin Cast overmantels, you may use DAP® Alex Plus® acrylic latex caulk, almond colour – US product code 18135; Cdn product code 74247.

Balmer Thin Cast Overmantels are factory treated with a clear water-based sealer, and do not require additional surface treatment.

Balmer Gypsum Overmantels will accept lacquers, stains, oil-based or acrylic paints. Apply a drywall primer first, then apply finish in thin coats to avoid filling-up the design details. For best results, use flat or eggshell finishes.

Customer Service Helpline: 1-800-665-3454  
[www.balmer.com](http://www.balmer.com)