

# Not Just For Fireplaces Any More

How many of us can't see the forest for the trees? When it comes to our fireplace we see a mantel surround or a mantel shelf. Other people go to the antique store and see a mantel that is going to become a headboard for a queen size bed or even a mantle shelf that is going to be a decorative shelf behind a sofa. Let's discuss a mantel used as a headboard. A queen size bed is 60" wide so it is not uncommon to find a mantle that has an overall body width around 60".

You can find full fireplace mantels and mantel shelves at MantelCraft.com, either custom built to your specifications or you can search our clearance pages where you can find great deals at great discounts off list price. Custom built mantels can be built with full legs (aka uprights) but can also be built without legs, as a "breast only mantel." Regardless of whether it has legs or not, once you receive a full mantle you may have to do some simple assembly.

If you are going to use a full fireplace mantel as a decorative piece, now is the time to determine if you want the opening (where the fireplace normally would be) to be covered or not. Some people choose to cut the leg height so the bottom of the header is even with the top of the mattress. Others choose to apply fabric to a piece of plywood and use that for the fireplace area of the mantel. Others choose to purchase a custom built breast mantel that allows you to mount this mantel headboard at the desired height. Whatever design you choose, you can take great pride in a job well done.

Now let's discuss a mantel shelf. This item can be purchased from our Mantel Shelf pages, custom built to your specifications or in a standard size. The traditional location for a mantle shelf has always been above the fireplace but why limit this decorative shelf to this area? How about adding a shelf behind the sofa or in a child's bedroom! One consideration is what will be placed on the shelf. If you need a larger depth shelf, then a custom-built mantel shelf may be right for you with a deeper top shelf. Like mantels, our shelves come with mounting hardware and instructions included in the box.

Fireplace mantels, fireplace mantel shelves and other fireplace accessories do not have to always end up around a fireplace. Be imaginative! Don't be afraid to explore other options when it comes to decorating. You can find plenty of decorating ideas on the web and in home magazines. Good luck, and have a good time with your project!

MantelCraft - America's choice for Fireplace Mantels

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