

# Installation and Operation Instructions

## Stone Age Patio Series Outdoor Fireplace

### SA-36PS



## 1.0 Introduction

The following provides instructions for the installation and operation of the Stone Age Fireplace, manufactured by Stone Age Manufacturing, Collinsville, Oklahoma.

Three generations of fireplace knowledge and experience have gone into the design and construction of the Patio series fireplaces. Patio Series fireplaces are designed for outdoor use only, and should not be installed near a structure or covered area. A minimum of 8' horizontal clearance to a structure or covered area is recommended.

Assembly and Cutaway views of a SA-36PS fireplace are shown in Figure 1.

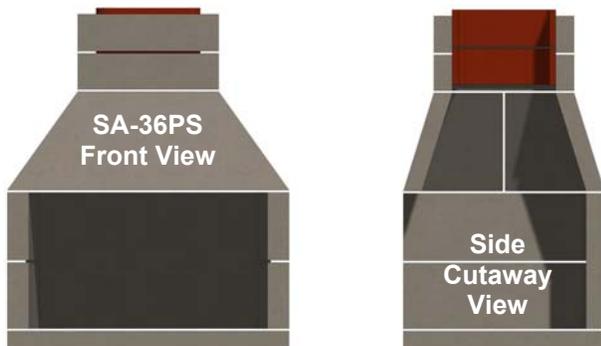


Figure 1. SA-36PS Fireplace Assembly & Cutaway View

It is recommended that this fireplace be installed by a professional installer, or by a builder in new construction. Installation by a non-qualified person may negate the warranty.

Keep these instructions for future reference.

## 2.0 Description

The fireplace is delivered as a kit with all components necessary to complete the installation. Component arrangements are shown in Figure 2. Components are listed in Table 1. Specifications and clearances are shown in Table 2.

A completed installation should include the following:

- A. Fireplace items shown in Figure 2 and listed in Table 1.
- B. Chimney Cap (sold separately) (Shown in Figure 15).
- C. Fireplace Grate (sold separately) (Shown in Figure 16).
- D. Split firebrick (firebrick is optional, and not required on Patio Series fireplaces, but may be installed if desired, sold separately).
- E. Stone Age Multi-Purpose Ready-Mix Cement (sold separately).
- F. Masonry-compatible finishing materials, as required to cover the outer surfaces of the fireplace kit (sold separately).

Ensure that appropriate building permits required by local codes are obtained before installation in an existing home.

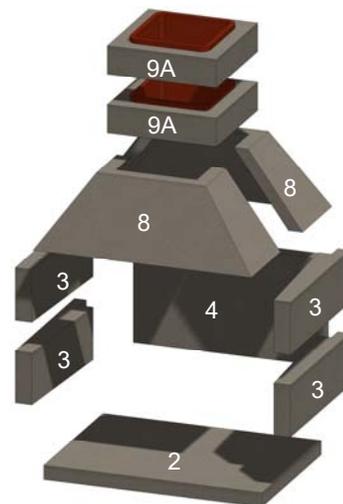


Figure 2. SA-36PS Exploded View

**Table 1. Fireplace Components**

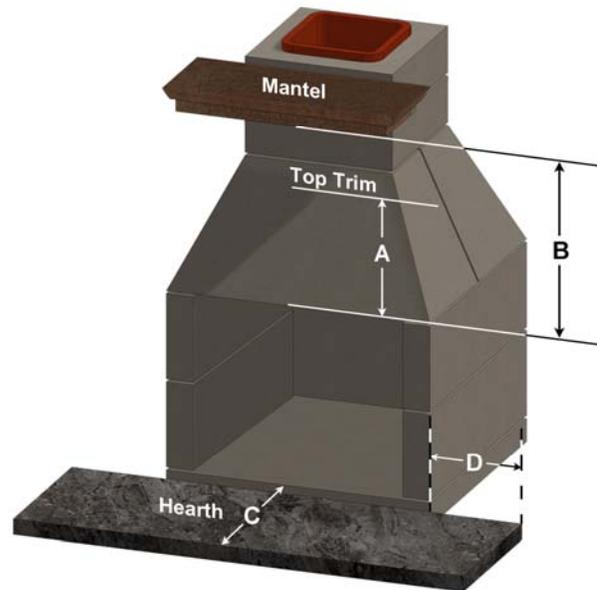
Item	Description	Dimensions
2	Base Plate	33" x 46"
3	Sidewall	11" x 33"
4	Back Plate	22.5" x 40"
8	Throat	23" x 23" at top
9A	Flue (Note 2)	23" x 23"
<p><b>Note 1:</b> Item numbers refer to component numbers in Figure 2.</p> <p><b>Note 2:</b> Additional flue sections may be added to this fireplace, up to a maximum of four feet. Additional flue sections must be purchased separately.</p>		

**Note:** Drawings of the fireplace components, with dimensions, are shown on page 10.

## 2.1 Specifications

**Table 2: Clearances (See Figure 3)**

Item	Clearance	Figure 3 Reference
Sidewall to Opening	18"	
Top Trim to Opening	17"	A
Side Trim to Opening	3"	
Mantle to Opening	25"	B
Floor to Opening	7"	
Front Hearth Extension	24"	C
Side Hearth Extension	12"	D
Opening to Combustibles	48"	
Clearance around Chimney flue	2"	
<p><b>Note 1:</b> This Fireplace is intended for use with solid wood fuel or vented gas logs</p> <p><b>Note 2:</b> This fireplace has not been tested for use with glass doors. To reduce the risk of fire or injury, do not install glass doors.</p> <p><b>Note 3:</b> Do not use fireplace insert or other products not specified for use with this model. Use a fireplace grate when burning wood.</p> <p><b>Note 4:</b> This fireplace has not been tested with an unvented gas log. Do not install an unvented gas log set into this fireplace.</p> <p><b>Note 5:</b> Clay flue liners installed in flue section (item 9A, Figure 2) meet the specifications of ASTM Section C315-02.</p> <p><b>Note 6:</b> Make sure installation complies with local building codes.</p> <p><b>Note 7:</b> Floor under unit must be non-combustible to earth</p>		



**Figure 3. SA-36PS Mantel & Hearth**

## 2.2 Installation of Additional Equipment

**WARNING: THIS FIREPLACE HAS NOT BEEN TESTED FOR USE WITH DOORS. TO REDUCE THE RISK OF FIRE OR INJURY, DO NOT INSTALL GLASS DOORS.**

A. Do not install a fireplace insert unless it is tested with this fireplace.

B. Cutting or drilling a hole into the floor or walls for gas supply for a vented decorative gas appliance (log), fresh air venting, or an ash dump, is acceptable.

C. If a decorative gas appliance is installed, it must be installed in accordance with the National Gas Fire Code, ANSI Z223.1.

D. It must incorporate an automatic shutoff device.

E. Installation must comply with the Standard for Decorative Gas Appliances in Vented Appliances, ANSI Z21.60 (1991) or American Gas Association draft requirements for Gas-Fired Log Lighters for Burning Fireplaces, Draft No. 4 dated August 1993.

### 3.0 Installation of the Fireplace

**WARNING: DO NOT USE SUBSTITUTE MATERIALS IN THE ASSEMBLY, INSTALLATION OR OPERATION OF THIS FIREPLACE. TO DO SO WILL VOID THE WARRANTY AND MAY RESULT IN FIRE AND PERSONAL INJURY.**

It is most important that the Stone Age fireplace be installed according to the following instructions. It is also important that local building codes be consulted and followed. Improper installation could result in:

- Overheating, leading to fireplace failure
- Leakage of rainwater through and around the chimney
- Cracks and settling because of poor foundations
- Emission of smoke, sparks and gases into the living area
- Combustion of materials adjacent to the fireplace.

**WARNING: THIS FIREPLACE HAS NOT BEEN TESTED WITH AN UNVENTED GAS LOG SET. TO REDUCE THE RISK OF FIRE OR INJURY, DO NOT INSTALL AN UNVENTED GAS LOG SET INTO THIS FIREPLACE.**

Do not install this fireplace in a manufactured or mobile home.

#### 3.1 Preparations

Select a location in the home plans or outdoor living area where all the minimum distances, as shown in Table 2 and Figure 3 can be met. Proceed as follows. Numbers in ( ) are item numbers from Table 1 and Figure 2. Ensure the base on which the fireplace is to be installed is a solid and level foundation and is composed of non-combustible material, such as concrete.

Due to varying climates, soil conditions, building codes, construction methods and materials in different geographical regions, Stone Age recommends installers review local building codes, consult with local building officials and/or a structural engineer before beginning the construction of any Stone Age product.

Pad or footings for outdoor installations should be a monolithic pad constructed of steel reinforced concrete. This fireplace may be placed on an existing reinforced concrete patio, or a compacted gravel base if soils are stable and no additional chimney is being installed with the kit. Minimum footing specifications for fireplaces built on stable soil, with overall height not exceeding 9 feet, are listed in Table 3. Locations with unstable soil may require a deeper footing or the addition of piers, to reach more stable subsoil or bedrock. Areas with colder climates may also require deeper footings or piers that reach below the frost line to prevent frost heaving. Piers should include steel reinforcement that extends into the footing above. See Figure 4.

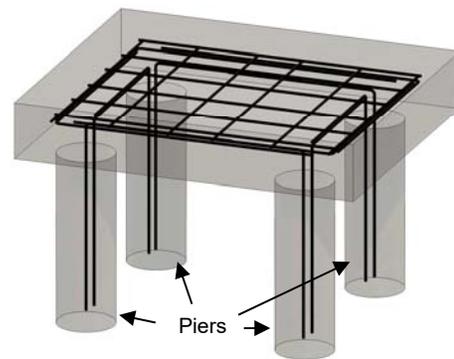


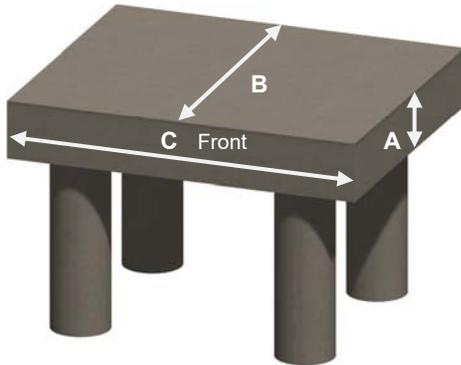
Figure 4. Footing with Piers - Cutaway View

If custom hearths or additional masonry structure is to be attached to the fireplace kit, the footing dimensions should be adjusted to include these customizations. If customizing the unit, consult with an engineer to determine the structural requirements based on the overall height, and the weight of fireplace, chimney, and finish materials.

If local building code exceeds the manufacturer's specifications for footings, follow the local code.

**Table 3. Minimum Footing Specifications**

Minimum Requirements for Footing		SA-36PS
<b>Thinner Finishes-</b> Fabricated Stone, Stucco, Stain or Tile	A	4" - 6"
	B	39"
	C	52"
<b>Thicker Finishes-</b> Full Veneer Natural Stone or Brick	A	8" - 12"
	B	45"
	C	58"
See Figure 5.		



**Figure 5. Footing with Piers**

Footing requirements for indoor installations should be determined based on local building code. Consult with a structural engineer to determine the footing requirements based on the overall height, and the weight of fireplace, chimney, and finish materials. If custom hearths or additional masonry structure is to be attached to the fireplace kit, the footing dimensions should be adjusted to include these customizations.

Use Stone Age’s Multi-Purpose Ready-Mix, or another high temperature fire clay or refractory cement suitable for indoor or outdoor use, and mix according to manufacturer’s instructions.

Once the fireplace is constructed you must wait at least 28 days before building a fire to give adequate time to cure. This will provide ample time for any water residue to evaporate, eliminating the adverse reaction of the combination of water and fire.

Stone Age products are designed to be assembled using a 3/8” fully bedded mortar joint for the kit pieces. Do not “butter the edges” of the kit pieces.

Install the fireplace on a solid base, such as a cement pad or concrete blocks. Two courses of 8” tall block will set the floor height of the fireplace at approximately 19 inches from the floor.

**WARNING: DO NOT USE RISER LEGS FOR AN INDOOR INSTALLATION. IN THIS INSTALLATION, THE VOID BELOW THE FIREBOX COULD INADVERTANTLY BE USED FOR THE STORAGE OF COMBUSTIBLE MATERIALS, WHICH COULD CREATE A FIRE HAZARD.**

### 3.2 Assembly of Components

Components that become broken during shipment and handling can be mortared back together providing the breaks or cracks are clean and the original alignment can be maintained. Components broken into multiple pieces must be replaced.

If this is your first Stone Age installation, it is suggested that you first assemble the components without mortar to familiarize yourself with how the components fit together. See Figure 2.

During the actual assembly with mortar, ensure each layer of the kit is plumb, level, and square before proceeding to the next step of the assembly.

A. Determine the height above the floor you want to place the base plate (2). The base plate, without firebrick, will be 3” thick. If installing firebrick, the base plate, plus firebrick, will be approximately 4 1/2 inches thick. Mortar and set concrete blocks into place to reach the desired fireplace floor height. Ensure the block base is level and square. Additional blocks may also be laid in front of the kit’s base plate to create a base for a hearth. See Figures 6 and 7.



**Figure 6. Block Base**



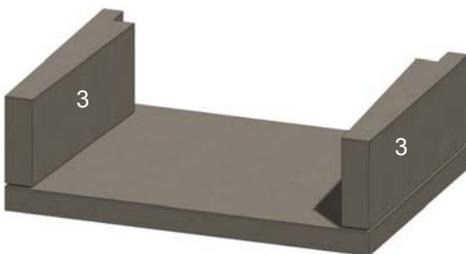
**Figure 7. Block Base with Hearth**

B. Set the base plate (2), ensuring it is level and square. See Figure 8.



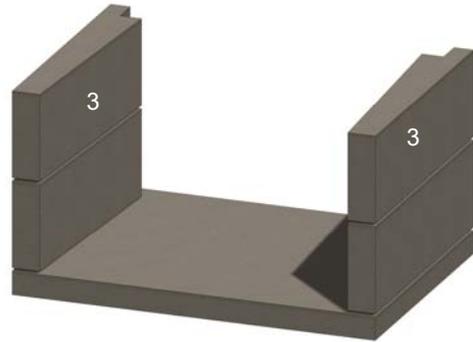
**Figure 8. Kit Base Plate**

C. Install the lower sidewalls (3), ensuring they are level and square. See Figure 9.



**Figure 9. Lower Sidewalls**

D. Install the upper sidewalls (3), ensuring they are level and square. See Figure 10.



**Figure 10. Upper Sidewalls**

E. Install the back plate (4). Firebrick is optional on this model. If choosing to install firebrick, install them before placing the tapered throat pieces. See Figure 11.



**Figure 11. Back Plate**

F. Install the tapered front and rear throat pieces (8). See Figure 12.

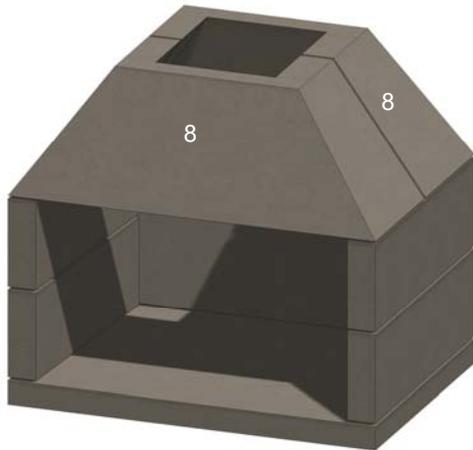


Figure 12. Throat Pieces

G. Patio Series kits include 2 chimney sections. A maximum of four additional feet of chimney is recommended with the Patio Series fireplaces. Install the first Stone Age masonry chimney section (9A), with the tile extending upward. Fill the void on the bottom with mortar to create a smooth transition. See Figure 13.

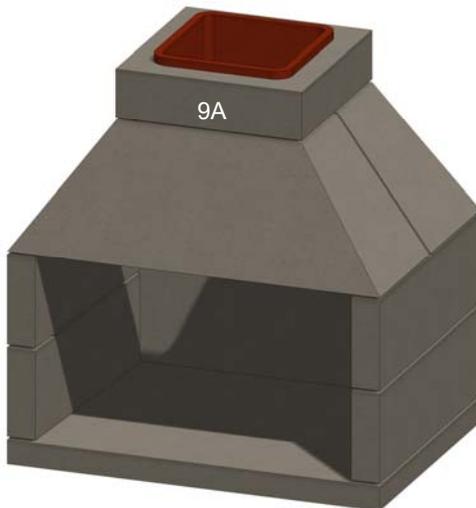


Figure 13. Chimney Flue

H. Install the next chimney section (9A), or any additional chimney sections to be installed. Fully bed each piece in mortar, and filling in the gap between the clay tiles in each section. Parge the joints to create a smooth transition between each chimney section. Note that if a tile is chipped or slightly out of square, it may be used as long as it the joints are filled and smoothed with high temperature mortar. See Figure 14.



Figure 14. Chimney Complete

**This model is designed for outdoor use only, and should not be placed near a structure or covered area. A minimum of 8' horizontal clearance to a structure or covered area is recommended.**

### 3.3 Exterior finishing

The exterior of the fireplace may be finished in any masonry-compatible material. Mantle and exterior veneers may be fabricated stone, thin veneer or full bed depth natural stone, tile, brick or stucco.

If the exterior finish will be stucco, stain, tile or manufactured thin stone, wrap the outside of the firebox with metal lathe. Attach metal lathe to the firebox using concrete nails, tapcons, masonry or concrete anchors. Natural stone veneers (whether full bed depth or thin veneer), full size brick, concrete pavers, CMU block, etc., do not require metal lathe. Ensure

the same refractory mortar used to build the kit is used to install these materials.

### 3.4 Chimney Cap

At the top of the chimney, use mortar to create a cap, sloping away from the clay flue and running out to the edge of the finish material, to assist with water drainage. Install the chimney cap following instructions provided. This will protect the chimney from rain, birds, animals and leaves. See Figure 15.



Figure 15. Mortar Cap and Chimney Cap

## 4.0 Operating Instructions

### 4.1 Safety Precautions

A fireplace can bring many hours of enjoyment, comfort and warmth if operated and maintained properly. Certain safety precautions must be observed to eliminate the dangers associated with fire and provide a satisfactory, smoke free fire.

A. When burning wood use solid, seasoned wood only. Do not use scrap wood or artificial wax based logs, treated coal or woods dipped in pine tar or pitch.

B. Never use gasoline or other combustible liquids when starting a fire.

C. Keep the chimney damper open while burning a fire. Do not interrupt air flow. Ensure sufficient air is present to support combustion. **The manufacturer of this fireplace is not responsible for interior smoke resulting from lack of combustion air.**

**CAUTION: WHEN USING THE DECORATIVE GAS APPLIANCE (VENTED GAS LOGS); THE FIREPLACE DAMPER MUST BE SET IN THE FULLY OPEN POSITION.**

D. Keep a screen in front of the fireplace except when tending the fire.

E. Keep combustible furniture/pillows at least four feet from the opening.

F. Never leave the fire unattended.

G. Be extremely careful when adding wood and handling fireplace tools. Never throw, kick or by any other means force wood into the firebox as this could damage the firebrick and fireplace walls that could result in permanent damage and void the warranty. Stress cracks from thermal cycling are normal.

H. Do not alter this fireplace to the extent that it would jeopardize the structural integrity of the fireplace. Drilling or cutting a hole for a gas line, fresh air vent or ash dump is acceptable. Use only Stone Age authorized equipment with this fireplace.

### 4.2 Selection of Wood

Use cured wood logs only. Scrap wood produces sparks. Treated wood, coal, or woods dipped in pine tar should not be used because they may leave a combustible residue in the fireplace and chimney.

Use of seasoned wood is preferred.

The amount of heat available from logs will depend on the type of wood, its dryness, quantity of wood and the size of the logs. Ten pounds of twigs will produce as much heat as a 10 pound log, but will produce it much faster because the air supply is more available.

### 4.3 Softwood vs. Hardwood

Wood is divided into two classes, hard and soft woods. Each has a use in a fireplace and each has advantages and disadvantages.

The hardwood category includes such woods as oak, walnut, birch, elm and maple. Softwoods include pine, fir, cedar and spruce.

Selection of wood depends on the type of fire you want. Softwoods are good to offset a morning chill because the fire develops faster. Hardwoods are preferable for a slower burning and uniform heat output.

Softwoods contain a highly flammable resin that will leave creosote soot in the chimney flue. This often results in sparking. Burning softwood exclusively will require more frequent inspection and cleaning of the chimney.

Experienced fire builders often use small amounts of softwood kindling and newspaper when starting a split hardwood log fire.

#### 4.4 Seasoned Wood

Most freshly cut “green” wood will not burn well and will smoke. The pressure of moisture and resin inside green wood will build under heat and explode as sparks. Therefore, it is recommended that only seasoned wood be used in your fireplace.

Most wood requires 9 to 12 months of seasoning and drying to reduce the moisture content enough to produce good steady fires. Ensure that you buy only seasoned wood, or if you buy green wood (usually cheaper), store it properly to aid in the seasoning process. The following steps will assist in the seasoning process.

- A. Stack wood loosely to permit maximum air circulation.
- B. Do not stack wood on the ground. Use a wood rack or stack on scrap lumber. Storage on the ground will cause rotting and insect infiltration.
- C. Cover wood stacks with a tarp so that it is not excessively exposed to the elements such as snow and rain.
- D. Do not stack wood against the walls of your home.

#### 4.5 Building a Fire

A. Use a log grate (sold separately) with your fireplace. This will contribute to good air circulation around the wood, and keep the wood out of the ash. This grate is shown in Figure 16.



Figure 16. Log Grate

B. Do not overload the wood grate with wood. Three to four logs on the fire at one time are sufficient. Too much wood on the fire at one time can result in “over firing,” and too much heat in the firebox, causing damage to the fireplace.

**WARNING: NEVER USE GASOLINE, GASOLINE-TYPE LANTERN FUEL, KEROSENE, CHARCOAL LIGHTER FLUID OR SIMILAR LIQUIDS TO START OR “FRESHEN UP” A FIRE IN THE FIREPLACE. KEEP ALL SUCH LIQUIDS WELL AWAY FROM THE FIREPLACE WHILE IT IS IN USE.**

C. When lighting a fire in a cold chimney, a downdraft may be created, letting a little smoke into the room. To correct this, hold a wadded newspaper in the firebox and light it. This will create an updraft and clear the flue of cold air.

D. Remove any excess ash from the fireplace. Excessive ash may reduce airflow. Some owners prefer to leave a small layer to insulate the cold refractory brick below the grate, helping fire starting.

E. Center the grate over the bottom hearth of the firebox.

F. Crumble several newspapers across the fire area below the grate. Criss-cross kindling wood on top of the grate, above the newspaper.

G. Lay three logs on the grate; two side by side and the third in pyramid fashion on top. Split logs will start faster. Ensure there is space between the logs for air circulation. As the air is heated, it is drawn upwards through the space between the logs, creating more combustion.

H. Light the paper at both sides of the firebox.

*Caution: The fireplace requires air for operation. Ensure there is sufficient air so that other fuel burning appliances are not starved of combustion, ventilation, and dilution air.*

I. Set the screen in front of the firebox to prevent the escape of sparks and embers.

J. Ensure the fire remains centered in the firebox. Don’t let it move to the front part. Move it back with the poker.

K. Add wood to the fire as necessary.

*CAUTION: Be extremely careful when adding wood to the fire. Use proper fireplace tools and wear gloves. Un-split logs will be less stable*

*and may be more likely to roll out of the fireplace if not placed carefully on the log grate.*

## 5.0 Cleaning, Inspection and Maintenance

As is the case with most other equipment, cleanliness is the best maintenance practice and will contribute too many hours of warmth and pleasure.

**WARNING: DO NOT CLEAN THE FIREPLACE WHEN IT IS HOT.**

A. Creosote – Formation and Removal. When wood is burned slowly, it produces tar and other organic vapors, which combine with expelled moisture to form creosote. The creosote vapors condense in the relatively cool chimney flue of a slow burning fire. As a result, creosote residue accumulates on the flue lining. When ignited, this creosote makes an extremely hot fire. The chimney shall be inspected at least twice a year during the heating season to determine when a creosote buildup has occurred. If a significant layer of creosote has accumulated (3 mm or more), it should be removed to reduce the risk of a chimney fire.

B. Disposal of ashes - Ashes should be placed in a metal container with a tight-fitting lid, and taken outside and placed on the ground, well away from all combustible materials, pending final disposal. If the ashes are disposed of by burial in soil or otherwise locally dispersed, they should be retained in the closed container until all cinders have thoroughly cooled.

C. The grate may be removed from the firebox for cleaning. However, ensure it is returned prior to laying the next fire.

D. Keep the fireplace screen clean so air flows freely through it.

E. Spot check the firebricks (if installed) and mortar for small cracks. It will expand slightly with the heat, and then contract as it cools. Replace firebricks when the cracks open more than 1/4"; or when pits become extensive and deeper than 3/16"; or when any piece of refractory larger than 2 inches in diameter becomes dislodged.

F. If creosote has accumulated, it should be removed to reduce the risk of a chimney fire. Clean the chimney as outlined below or have the chimney cleaned by a professional chimney sweep.

**WARNING: DO NOT USE CHEMICAL CHIMNEY CLEANERS THAT ARE Poured ON A HOT FIRE. THE CHEMICAL CLEANER CAN BE DANGEROUS AND GENERALLY WILL ONLY WORK ON THE FLUE SECTION NEAREST THE FIRE, LEAVING THE REST OF THE FLUE UNAFFECTED.**

G. Inspect the top cap and opening in your chimney top and remove any debris that could clog it. If possible, birds will often nest there, and it must be kept clear of nest material.

H. Cover the firebox opening with a damp sheet and seal with masking tape to retain soot in the firebox while cleaning.

I. Inspect the entire flue from the top down for obstructions. Use a flexible handled cleaning brush. If the chimney contains offset/return elbows, clean from the top down to the offset, then from the firebox up to the offset.

J. After completion of cleaning, use a vacuum cleaner to remove all soot and residue from the firebox.

## 6.0 Finishing Specifications

Approximate finishing specifications, firebrick count, and mortar coverage are estimated in Table 4 below.

Coverage amounts may vary due to weather conditions, type of finish material, size of mortar joints, and skill and efficiency of the mason or installer.

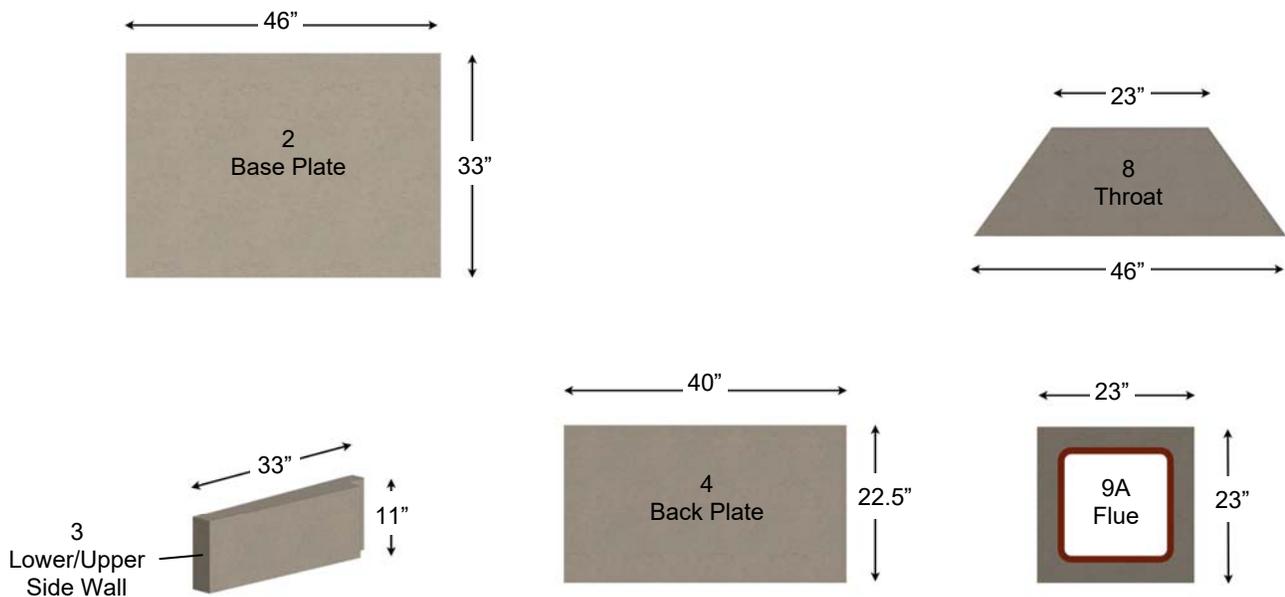
Table 4 does not account for waste. Add the appropriate waste factor for your material type and skill level.

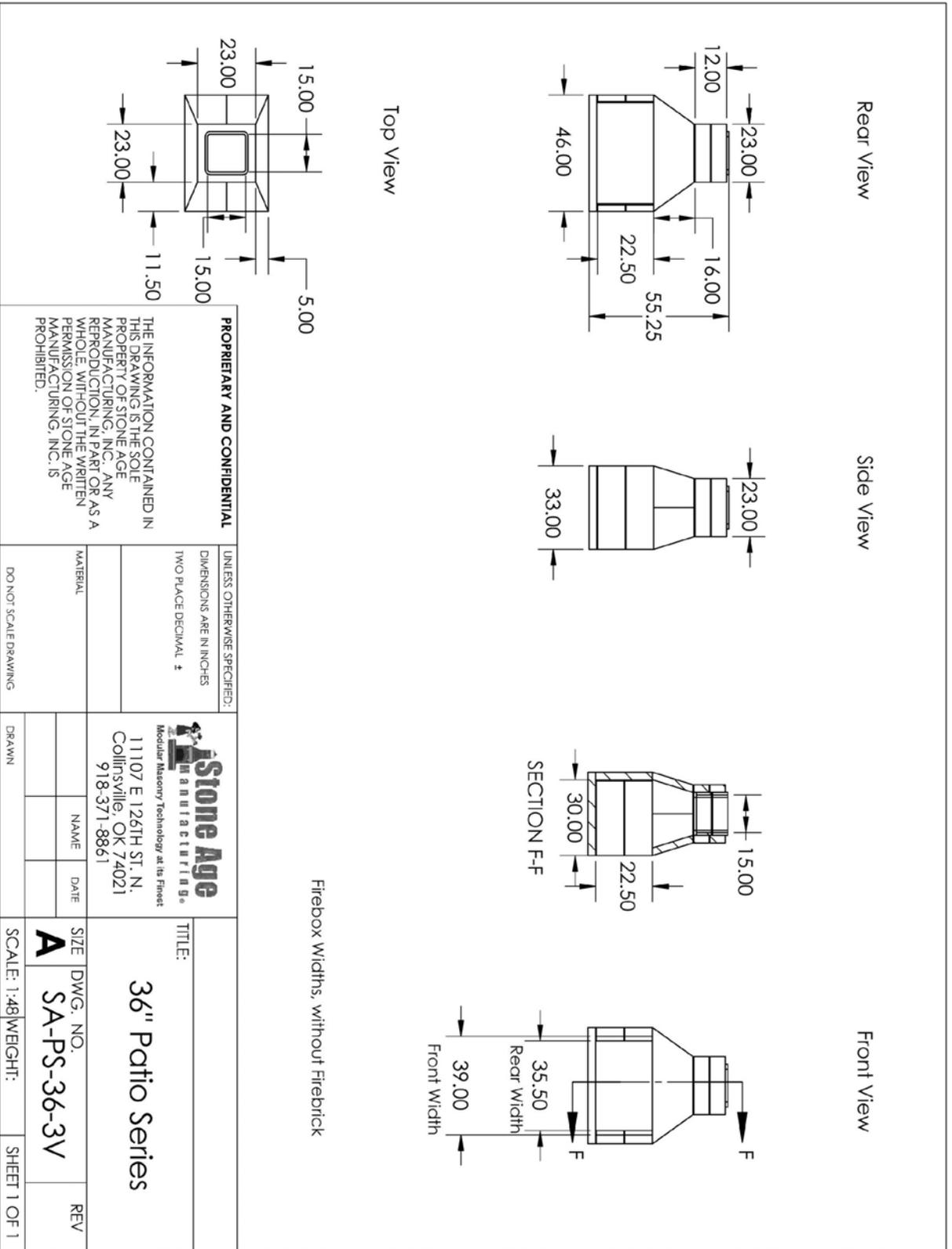
**Table 4. Finishing Requirements**

<b>Kit Components</b>	
Surface Area Corner Length	71 square feet 22 Linear feet
Ready-Mix Mortar Required for Kit Assembly	5 Buckets/Bags
Mortar Required for Kit Finishing	3 - 5 Buckets/Bags
Firebrick Required	85 Split Brick (not required)
<b>Additional Chimney (Per Chimney Section)</b>	
Surface Area: Corner Length:	4 square feet 2 Linear feet
Ready-Mix Mortar Required for Assembly	1/8 Bucket/Bag
Mortar Required for Finishing	1/8 - 1/4 Buckets/Bags

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**Fireplace Components  
SA-36PS**





### **LIMITED WARRANTY**

The products of Stone Age Manufacturing, Inc. (“Stone Age”) have been carefully manufactured and the components assembled to give the customer a quality product. Stone Age warrants to the original purchaser the materials that it provides to the customer against defects in manufacture for a period of twenty-five (25) years from the date of purchase on UL-127 listed fireplaces, for a period of five (5) years from the date of purchase on all unlisted fireplaces, fire pits, and other masonry components. Other accessory items or components offered, but not produced by Stone Age Manufacturing, Inc., shall be covered by their manufacturer’s warranties. This Limited Warranty covers only actual manufacturing defects in the Stone Age product and does not cover defects or faulty workmanship in the installation of the product or the masonry or other structure in which it is installed. Also this warranty does not cover items that have been damaged due to over-heating, modification, improper storage or maintenance. Stone Age shall repair or replace, at its option, any defective Stone Age product component upon receipt of written notice addressed to Stone Age. This Limited Warranty covers only replacement of any defective components within the product itself occurring during the warranty period and does not cover the cost of installation or removal from a fixed location. **NO OTHER WARRANTIES, EXPRESS OR IMPLIED, ARE MADE, INCLUDING IMPLIED WARRANTIES OF MERCHANTABILITY AND FITNESS FOR PARTICULAR PURPOSES WHICH ARE SPECIFICALLY DISCLAIMED.** Stone Age is not liable for damages or injury to persons or property or other incidental or consequential damages.

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