



# INSTRUCTIONS

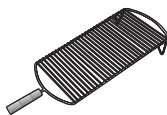
## SMALL, MEDIUM & LARGE CHIMENEAS AND FIRE PITS

- Traditionally handmade in Mexico
- Volcanic clay pottery with integrated capillaries for improved durability
- Add magical ambience to your outdoor area
- Includes black steel stand
- Use with washed sand in base; and optional fire base tiles for easy maintenance and better performance

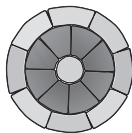
### OPTIONAL ACCESSORIES



Raincoat



Chimenea griller



Fire base tiles



**FOR OUTDOOR USE ONLY**

*Retain these instructions for future reference*

# CONTENTS

Safe Positioning	3
General Care & Maintenance	3
Setting Up Fire Chamber	4
Fire Management	5
Fire Management	6
Recommended Fuels	7
Initial Conditioning	8
Safety	9
Maintenance Requirements	10

## *"The Mountains of Mexico Come to Australasia"*

*Chapala Chimeneas are authentic ancient designs; which have been handed down through countless generations of Aztec, Chilean, Inca, Myan and Peruvian peoples dwelling in the South American Andes Mountains. Thoroughly researched from archaeological records dating back centuries; each design reflects the artistry, craftsmanship and the culture of its roots.*

*Originally installed indoors as charcoal fired ovens and heaters for family warmth, today's Chimeneas are radiant heaters, extending your season of comfortable outdoor entertaining and family living.*

*Chapala Chimeneas are 100% hand-made and finished by traditional craftsmen; long established family businesses located around the perimeter of Lake Chapala high in the mountains of West Central Mexico. This district is rich in volcanic clay and sand from which the world's best Chimeneas are made. Exclusive use of only quality materials has been proven internationally as the most critical factor in achieving brilliant radiant heating performance and long-term durability.*

*Enjoy the warmth of Chapala Chimeneas with a magical and uniquely appealing open fire ambience!*

# SAFE POSITIONING

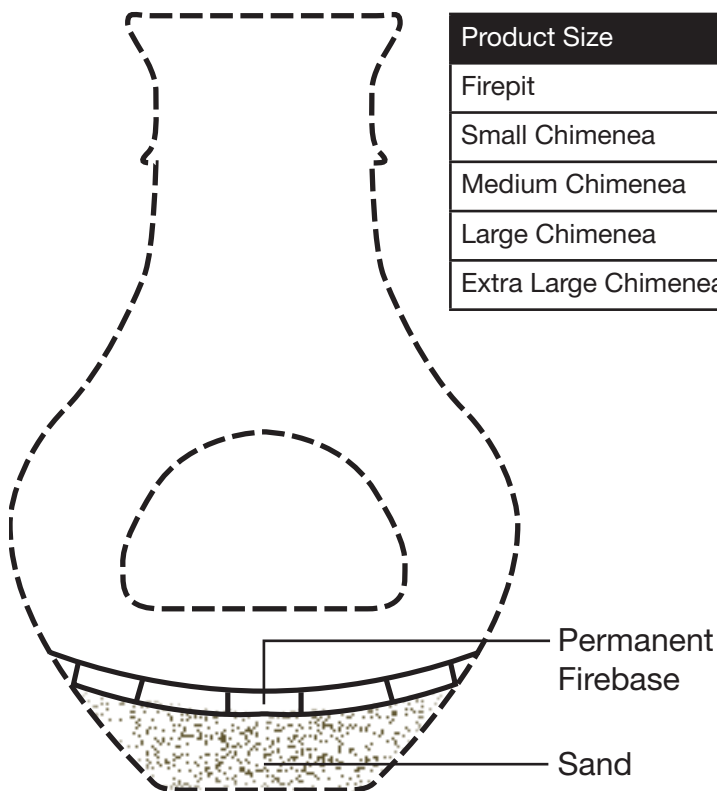
- The Chimenea on its stand requires 1.5m clearance from the top of the chimney to any combustible surface above such as a pergola, sailcloth, awning etc.
- Ensure the Chimenea is at least 1.0m from any combustible surface.
- If you have a spark arrestor accessory ensure it is in the correct position following the instructions supplied.
- If possible, position the Chimenea where the fire can be seen from inside the house as well as the out door area.
- A Chimenea performs better with its back towards any prevailing breeze.
- Place the Chimenea on the stand so that two of the legs are equally positioned either side of the fire chamber mouth, so they are not an obstacle when stoking the fire.
- To ensure the Chimenea performs correctly check that the chimney is vertical, by viewing both from directly in front and from the side.
- Only use the Chimenea on the stand supplied to avoid damage to surfaces underneath the Chimenea.
- The firepit should always be used with the dome lid in position. Use a heat proof glove to remove the lid for stoking the fire. Allow 3.0m clearance above the top of the firepit.

## GENERAL CARE & MAINTENANCE

- Follow the correct lighting and fire management advice included in these instructions to ensure that you get the most out of your product.
- Keep the Chimenea / Firepit on its stand when not in use to avoid moisture build up underneath.
- When not in use, ensure Protective cover (Raincoat accessory sold separately) is on correctly or that the unit is stored undercover.
- After approximately every 5 to 7 fires the ash should be removed so the height of the fire is not continually raised.

## SETTING UP THE FIRE CHAMBER

- For best results include a permanent firebase inside fire chamber (see below).
- The Chimenea / Firepit must be used with sand included in the base.
- The sand raises the fire to the required height for optimum heating performance.
- It also allows the fire to be easily seen through the Chimenea mouth enhancing the ambience, an important part of the unique charm and character of your Chimenea.
- Too much sand raises the fire base too high, resulting in shoulder burning of the fire chamber and loss of radiant heating performance.



Product Size	Washed Sand Amount
Firepit	8-10 Litres
Small Chimenea	8-10 Litres
Medium Chimenea	12-15 Litres
Large Chimenea	14-17 Litres
Extra Large Chimenea	17-22 Litres

## PERMANENT FIREBASE INSTALLATION

Use a permanent firebase for better performance and easier maintenance.

1. Place only the required amount of washed sand into the fire chamber as specified in the table opposite.
2. Without compacting the sand, mould it into a shallow “birds nest” shape measuring about 70mm deep at the centre, rising to 120mm at each side.
3. Using the correct firebase tile pack for your size Chimenea as designated on the packaging; place

the round tile centrally in the “**bird’s nest**”. Add remaining ceramic tiles in circles around the centre tile; as shown on the firebase tile pack.

4. Use a couple of handfuls of sand as “grout”; spread around across the top of the tiles to fill in between the gaps. Firmly pat the sand around the top and remove any excess sand.

Advantages of the permanent firebase are:

- **It centralizes the fire** within the chamber for best all round radiant heating performance.
- **Increases insulation** between the fire and the surfaces below the Chimenea
- Achieves best **fuel economy** using low flame height fires over a base of glowing coals.
- Simplifies ash removal. The sand only firebase “bird nest” will flatten out over time and needs to be reshaped every time the ash is removed.

## ‘SAND ONLY’ FIREBASE INSTALLATION

1. Place only the required amount of washed sand into the fire chamber as specified in the table opposite.
2. Without compacting the sand, mould it into a shallow “birds nest” shape measuring about 80mm deep at the centre, rising to about 120mm at each side.

**NOTE: Use only as much sand as required.**

## FIREBASE MAINTENANCE

After approximately every 5 - 7 fires the ash should be removed and the sand base reconstructed to the “birds nest” shape.

## FIRE MANAGEMENT

The Chimenea is designed to efficiently use the minimum amount of fuel to get the maximum amount of radiant heat. Each size Chimenea has been made with a specific ratio between the area of the mouth opening and the diameter of the flue. With the right size fire the Chimenea will draft correctly with minimal smoking and optimum heat output; at the same time as conserving your fuel.

## IMPORTANT

- The fire should be kept to a size which fills the visible area of the fire chamber mouth, and the flames are below the internal base of the Chimney.
- Once the fire is underway the use of recommended dry fuels as described in these instructions will result in smoke free operation under items like pergolas or verandas.
- Adding extra fuel to furnace the Chimenea will not necessarily give better performance and can damage your Chimenea.
- Besides wasting your fuel, the outside coating can become discoloured and burnt, damaging the weather proof layer. If the fire is excessive for extended periods of time cracking could also occur.
- The fire heats the walls of the Chimenea, which then radiate heat to the surrounding area.

**BE PATIENT AND ALLOW THE WALLS TO HEAT.**

# RECOMMENDED FUELS

Use the following fuels for Medium to Large Chimeneas:

Charcoal	Red river gum charcoal
Double split red gum, yellow box, grey box pieces	Roughly cut to 250mm long and 75mm thick. Larger size pieces are too big for Chimeneas & may lead to overloading / furnancing; which may damage the Chimenea
Sunbrix Solid Briquettes	An excellent slow burning smokeless fuel, best used 50 / 50 with wood / charcoal
Hot Rox Processed Wood ‘Logs’	Hexagonal logs with a centre hole. For small and medium Chimeneas break the pieces in half
Small pieces of Mallee Root	No larger than grapefruit size pieces
Kindling	Dry Hardwood kindling is best as it is reliable and virtually smokeless. Softwoods, building site off cuts, and old fencing are ok as kindling. These should not be used as general fuel as they heat up and die down very quickly. When furnacing the flames can reach temperatures of 1200 degrees Celsius; which is higher temperatures than when the pottery was produced.

**NOTE:** Use of recommended fuels will result in minimal ash generation and lower maintenance requirements.

**WARNING: Heat Beads, Artificial Fire logs, Brown Coal Products must not be used in pottery Chimeneas.**

These are modern fuels designed for slow combustion devices / kettles that include a draft control. The Chimenea draws strongly and will generate furnace like heat which could damage the Chimenea.

**NOTE:** Overall, as part of the natural ageing process, some hairline surface cracking and discoloration may eventually occur; but these will not affect the performance. Under normal use the Chimenea will last for many years.

Should the finish of pottery Chimeneas be extensively “burnt” the exterior surface is no longer weather/rain proof. After prolonged exposure this allows moisture to spread throughout the Chimenea placing it at risk if a strong fire is lit in a wet Chimenea. The Chimenea would require re-sealing.

Fully exposed Chimeneas will benefit, over the longer term, with a “Raincoat” vinyl cover protection to keep the sand/firebase dry at all times.

# INITIAL CONDITIONING

Conditioning is required to line the Chimenea with a layer of velvety black soot. This helps with even distribution of heat through the Chimenea and better overall heating performance.

**Using the correct timbers, kindling or firelighters**, light a small fire in the centre of the fire chamber progressively feeding in small pieces of wood one at a time as a coal base becomes established. Maintain the fire at this level for a minimum of 2 hours.

**For your second and third fires**, proceed to light as before, but progressively build larger fires by adding more pieces of approximately 75mm diameter wood about 300mm in length. 2 pieces for the second fire and 3 pieces for the third fire, and keep a consistent size for a minimum of 2 hours.

Some fuels take a little longer to “soot up” than others. Be persistent. It is well worth it in the long run.

## SAFETY

- Never light a Chimenea (or any other non-flue device) indoors or in any fully enclosed space. Proper ventilation must always be provided.
- Because the outside surface of a Chimenea is rough and uneven, serious skin burns are unlikely. Surface temperatures of a Chimenea are well below that of a BBQ kettle surface. However:
- Supervision of toddlers, young children, and pets is required. Use the fire screen accessory in front of the open firebox mouth whenever the Chimenea is alight.
- Moving Chimeneas can be hazardous. Never move when in use.
- The best & safest way to move your Chimenea is using the Chimenea Walker. This is an accessory with castors that the Chimenea can sit on during use and storage.
- Alternatively; moving your Chimenea is a 2 person job. Pass 2 ropes under each side of the Chimenea, inside of the stand legs so that the lift is shared equally by 1 person on each side of the Chimenea. Remember to keep your back straight and bend your knees.

## EXTINGUISHING YOUR CHIMENEA FIRE

- Never place a cap on top of the Chimney when it is alight.
- Never douse the fire with water.
- The fire should die out by running out of fuel.
- Never leave the Chimenea / Firepit unattended.

# MAINTENANCE REQUIREMENTS

## ASHES BUILD UP

Progressive build up of charcoal and ash gradually raises the height of the fire with progressive reduction of radiant heating performance. When the fire gets too high the flames will reach the shoulders of the fire chamber.

Periodic removal of accumulated ash is advisable; by scooping down to the top of the firebase, using disposable gloves or a brush and dust pan being careful to avoid disturbing the firebase.

## WEATHER PROTECTION

During use the Chimenea should have no ill affects from rain, as the heat will not allow the water to absorb into the pottery.

**WHEN NOT IN USE:** The Chimenea should be protected from moisture. Water drawn into the Chimenea via the capillaries, or soaking into the sand firebase; will turn to steam when heated, and could crack the Chimenea. It should be kept undercover or covered with a vinyl Rain Coat accessory.

**WET CHIMENEA:** If your Chimenea does get wet internally, as soon as possible empty the fire chamber completely; dry out the inside with a fan forced heater or hair dryer. The Chimenea is dry when it has regained its metallic ring when tapped.

## ACCESSORIES AVAILABLE FROM YOUR CHIMENEA RETAILER

- Firebase Tiles - Large set (17 tiles) & Small set (9 tiles)
- Chimenea Griller
- Raincoat
- Chimenea Walker