1. **Prepare & Assemble**: Unpack, inspect, and assemble any surrounding pieces (legs, top) as instructed.
2. **Mark Position**: Place the assembled mantel on the wall, level it, and mark its outline and center point, ensuring clearance from the firebox.
3. **Install Mounting Support**:
   - Locate wall studs using a stud finder.
   - Secure a sturdy ledger board or mount cleat into the studs, ensuring it's level and can bear the mantel's weight.
4. **Mount Mantel**:
   - Lift the mantel onto the cleat/ledger (two people recommended).
   - Secure it by driving screws through pre-drilled holes in the mantel top down into the ledger, and/or up from the bottom into the ledger.

Important Considerations

- **Safety & Codes**: Always check local building codes for minimum clearance from the firebox opening (usually 12 inches above).