

Skilled Fireplace Builder, Carpenter & Finisher

An Already-Competent Builder, Carpenter and Finisher · Not a Developing Fitter

Available on a permanent employed basis or as a genuine self-employed subcontract engagement

“Exceptional installations depend on exceptional building and finishing.”

01 The opportunity

An appliance can be installed perfectly and the job still fail. What the customer sees is the opening, the lintel, the chamber, the stone surround, the beam, the plasterwork and the making good — and that is what decides whether they are delighted or merely satisfied.

This is a role for someone already competent. We are looking for a tradesperson who arrives able to complete fireplace construction and premium finishing independently and productively, not someone who needs substantial development before contributing. You would work alongside Reilly, our lead installation engineer, who retains overall technical leadership and leads the complex twin-wall, electrical and air-conditioning work. You would take ownership of the building, preparation and visible finishing — complementing his technical capability rather than duplicating it.

02 Who this will suit

Carpenters

Joiners

General builders

Bricklayers

Plasterers

Fireplace-renovation specialists

Skilled domestic multi-trade operatives

03 What you will complete independently

This is the work we expect you to complete independently. Candidates who would need substantial training before completing the core building and finishing work will not meet the appointment threshold.

Fireplace construction

- Knock-outs and structural openings; assessing and installing appropriate lintels
- Brickwork and blockwork; preparing and altering fireplace recesses
- Installing chambers; installing and finishing hearths

Premium finishing

- Stone surrounds, mantels and beams
- Carpentry, framing and boxing
- Cutting and fitting specified fire-resistant cladding
- Plastering and high-quality making good

On site

- Accurate measuring and setting out
- Protecting customers' homes; clean and safe work areas
- Delivering a premium domestic finish without continuous supervision

Wider installation work

- You may support the broader installation programme where appropriate
- Twin-wall and air-conditioning support are not the primary requirement
- Broader stove or engineering development may follow, but is not the reason for appointment

04 What matters most, in order

- 01 Reliability and consistent attendance
- 04 Capacity and willingness to learn
- 07 Accurate measuring, setting out and finishing
- 10 Long-term progression potential

- 02 Safe working
- 05 Care in customers' homes
- 08 Confidence working at height

- 03 Existing practical trade skill
- 06 Working productively within the team
- 09 Problem-solving

The scope of this role, stated plainly. Twin-wall installation and air-conditioning support are not the primary requirement. HETAS responsibility is not implied unless you separately hold the relevant registration. Gas, electrical and refrigerant work remain outside the role unless you hold the appropriate current qualifications and are formally authorised.

Safety, workmanship and customer care are non-negotiable. We work inside people's homes, often as the only trade on site, on work that sits at the centre of a room and is looked at every day for years.

05 Employed or self-employed — both are open

OPTION A · EMPLOYED

Permanent, Full-Time Position

£33,000 – £38,000

per annum, depending on the breadth and quality of your existing trade skills.

- £33,000–£35,000 — strong, independently useful building or finishing capability
- £35,000–£38,000 — broad independent capability across openings, lintels, chambers, hearths, stone, carpentry, plastering and making good

EMPLOYED TERMS

- Permanent, full-time position
- Based at Oaklands Park, Bury St Edmunds, working across East Anglia
- 28 days' paid annual leave, including bank holidays
- Workplace pension
- Six-month probation, with structured competency reviews at three, six and twelve months
- Appointment subject to satisfactory references, qualification and registration checks

OPTION B · SELF-EMPLOYED

Subcontract Engagement

£180 – £200

per day, set by how much of the finished work you complete without supervision.

- £180–£190 — strong, independently useful building or finishing capability
- £200 — broad independent capability across openings, lintels, chambers, hearths, stone, carpentry, plastering and making good
- Up to £220 — exceptional specialist finishing, consistent productivity and genuine responsibility for the finished result

SUBCONTRACT TERMS

- Genuine self-employed status; you invoice for services
- Your own insurance, registrations and qualifications, maintained throughout
- Vehicle, fuel, tools, test and specialist equipment as agreed under the contract
- The extent of your independent responsibility on site
- No guaranteed continuous work and no employee benefits
- Engaged subject to an employment-status assessment and professional review

Pay is determined by demonstrated capability, independence, productivity, responsibility and commercial contribution — not by job title, qualification alone or length of service. The top of any range is reserved for candidates already delivering at that level. Progression is competency-based and is not automatic.

These are not interchangeable, and you cannot simply choose. Where someone works regularly within the Opulence programme, is directed by our team, uses our vehicle and equipment, is trained and supervised over time and becomes integrated into an installation team, employment will ordinarily be the more appropriate route. Self-employment is offered only as a genuine contract for services, following an employment-status assessment and professional review. This is not legal advice.

06 How you progress

STAGE 01

Independent fireplace construction

Completing knock-outs, openings, lintels, chambers, hearths and associated construction work to Opulence standards.

STAGE 02

Premium independent finishing

Independently completing stone surrounds, carpentry, plastering, cladding and high-quality making good.

STAGE 03

Senior building and finishing specialist

Responsibility for complex preparation, finished quality and consistent standards.

STAGE 04

Broader capability or specialist lead

Optional development into wider stove-installation work, or progression as our lead building and finishing specialist.

Progression is competency-based, not automatic. Higher pay requires measurable additional value, demonstrated in practice rather than described on a CV.

07 How to apply

Apply through our careers page:

opulencestoves.co.uk/careers/

PLEASE INCLUDE

- An up-to-date CV
- Employed or self-employed preference
- Your primary trade or work background
- Qualifications and registrations
- Relevant practical experience
- Photographs of previous work
- Current or expected pay rate
- Driving licence, availability, references

FOR THIS ROLE, ALSO SEND

- Photographs of openings, lintels, hearths, chambers, stone surrounds, carpentry and plastering
- Evidence of premium domestic finishing and property protection
- Which activities you complete independently

Two appointments across four candidate profiles. Opulence is recruiting two additional people to strengthen its installation capacity. We are advertising four different candidate profiles and will appoint whichever combination of skills gives the business the strongest additional installation capability.