In 1979, J. Del Conner and Pennsylvania Firebacks, revitalized this all but forgotten art form with the introduction of original firebacks made for contemporary fireplaces. Elegant design and castings of heirloom quality are the hallmarks of this unique collection.

Pennsylvania Firebacks is also proud to offer its collection of beautifully detailed museum quality reproductions of antique firebacks. Honored with an award for technical excellence following the premier of this collection, Pennsylvania Firebacks leads the way in bringing the best of the past into the future.

In earlier times, the well appointed fireplace was never considered complete unless it included a cast iron fireback. Today, the fireback’s usefulness and charms have been rediscovered, and are again at the center of hearth and home.

Positioned against the back wall of the hearth, a fireback protects the masonry of the wall and radiates the heat of the fire forward. By reflecting light and heat from the fire out into the room, a fireback is a noticeable improvement to a hearth. This warmth is gained whether a fireback is used with wood fires or remote controlled gas log units.

A cast iron fireback is still the best way to protect a hearth’s back wall from decay. Despite advances in technology, the harsh rays of a fire render even modern refractory bricks vulnerable to damage and the likelihood of expensive repairs. A fireback will effectively prevent any further damage to the back wall.

As a sculptural accent in what is the natural focal point of a home, a fireback lends visual warmth and interest to a home whether it is with a roaring fire, and attractive spotlight, or by soft candlelight.
A Fireback’s natural reflective, protective and decorative qualities are just as beneficial behind the kitchen range as they are in the home’s other focal point, the hearth.

If there is a shelf behind the range a Fireback can simply be leaned against the wall with a spacer behind the bottom of the Fireback to insure proper balance is maintained as pictured below center.

There are a few ways to mount a Fireback to the wall above a range. It is important that there is sufficient strength in the wall to support the Fireback. It may be necessary to install additional framing to the wall behind the Green Board or cement Hardi Board before tile is installed.

A Fireback can be attached to Green Board or Hardi Board with industrial high strength adhesive glue or epoxy as pictured above.

A Fireback can be drilled and strapping attached to the framing. The wall board should be cut to allow the strapping to sit flush or back from the board to allow tile to sit over it as pictured below on the right.

A Fireback can be drilled in the corners to allow bolts to be attached to the studs behind the Green Board or Hardi Board before tile is applied. A Fireback can also be drilled and counter sunk to allow screws to attach it to the studs and sit flush to the Fireback surface as pictured below on the left.

It is suggested that before painting a Fireback, it be given a light sanding. To prevent rust and allow for cleaning, two coats of primer, and two or three coats of stove paint, or a Rust-Oleum-like metal paint should be applied before installation.
These original firebacks were created by artist J. Del Conner.

Fleurs-De-Lis  ZF04
17 1/4" w., 14 3/4" h.,
5/8" d., 24 lbs.
Used in heraldic art, some maintain that the fleurs-de-lis represents the lily, others the head of a lance. The pistils of these fleurs-de-lis clearly make this a fireback of flowers.

Small Oak  ZF01
18" w., 16" h.,
7/8" d., 33 lbs.
Same motif as the Great Oak, but designed for today’s prefab and smaller fireplaces. A homage to all that we receive from the tree, a symbol of strength and durability.

Parthenon  ZF03
17 1/4" w., 17 3/4" h.,
1" d., 35 lbs.
The integrity and beauty of this classic model has inspired centuries of western architects to incorporate it into their designs.
**Small Original Designs**

**Small American Eagle** ZF02
20” w., 153/4” h.,
5/8” d., 31 lbs.

*Designed for a smaller hearth, this fireback was created in 1982 to commemorate the two-hundredth anniversary of the American Bald Eagle’s use on the Great Seal of the United States.*

**Night Horse** SF11
211/2” w., 18” h.,
5/8” d., 48 lbs.

*Under a crescent moon, a cantering horse is pictured by a water hole as it eclipses the stars of the constellation Pegasus. This fireback’s curvaceous frame and rope molding lend it a distinctive originality.*

**Plain Great Oak** SF08
18” w., 20” h.,
7/8” d., 41 lbs.

*The oak tree is a symbol of strength, durability, and unity making it a natural emblem and focal point of the hearth.*

**Dated Great Oak** SF08-D
18” w., 20” h.,
7/8” d., 44 lbs.

*Reintroducing the custom of marking the year with a dated fireback, the Great Oak has been available with the current date since 1980.*

**Medium Original Designs**

**Plain Panel** SF06
19” w., 211/2” h.,
7/8” d., 59 lbs.

*The Plain Panel Fireback displays a simple elegance indicative of the decorative arts created during the Georgian Period (1714-1800).*

**Georgian Shell** SF04
19” w., 211/2” h.,
7/8” d., 51 lbs.

*During the Georgian Period (1714-1800), the unadorned cockle shell was a popular motif with Rhode Island furniture makers.*

**North Star** SF07
211/2” w., 191/4” h.,
5/8” d., 49 lbs.

*The Man-in-the-Moon shows how Polaris or the North Star, in the handle of the Little Dipper, is found using the “pointer stars” in the bowl of the Big Dipper. The stationary North Star appears to rule the heavens.*

**We the People** LE02
18” w., 213/4” h.,
5/8” d., 41 lbs.

*Celebrating the U.S. Constitution, the artist is a descendant of Philip Syng Jr., silversmith who crafted the Independence Hall inkstand.*
**Halley's Comet**

**LE01**

19" w., 21½" h.,
7/8" d., 50 lbs.

Marking the night Halley's Comet crossed the celestial equator, New Year's Eve 1985. On that night, the comet entered the overflowing bowl of Aquarius the water bearer.

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**Bass**

**SF10**

19" w., 19½" h.,
3/4" d., 46 lbs.

This fireback tells the story of a sunrise which inspires a turtle to climb on a log, to bask in the warmth, which puts two dragon flies to flight, causing the Bass to show itself to soaring eagles and an approaching fisherman.

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**Three Bears**

**SF12**

20" w., 17" h.,
3/4" d., 49 lbs.

Bears, butterflies and bees by a brook with box turtle, bird, berries and bark make this a back filled with detail. Mesmerizing in complexity, one can imagine this fireback telling a variety of stories during long dreamy fires of winter.

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**Pineapple**

**SF05**

19" w., 21½" h.,
7/8" d., 51 lbs.

Indicative of the decorative arts created during the Georgian Period (1714-1800), the pineapple, symbol of hospitality, was especially popular with makers of objects in this period.

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**Franklin Sun**

**SF02**

18" w., 21½" h.,
7/8" d., 44 lbs.

This fireback was the first design created for our initial production of original firebacks in 1979. "Alter Idem or Another the Same...warms when we please, and just as we desire."

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**Urn of Lilies**

**SF03**

17 7/8" w., 21⅛" h.,
7/8" d., 37 lbs.

A classical urn of lilies on a pedestal with three bees. Bringing the warmth of spring to deepest winter, urns and flowers have long been a popular motif for fireback and stove plate ornamentation.

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**Small Clipper Ship**

**SF22**

18⅝" w, 21" h.,
3/4" d., 62 lbs.

A fast American clipper ship returns to port greeted by seagulls. Designed to fit a standard fireplace, this detailed fireback pays tribute to the age of sail.

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**Halley's Comet**

**LE01**

19" w., 21½" h.,
7/8" d., 50 lbs.

Marking the night Halley's Comet crossed the celestial equator, New Year's Eve 1985. On that night, the comet entered the overflowing bowl of Aquarius the water bearer.

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**In the off-season a freshly polished fireback looks great in front of the hearth leaning back on a reversed pair of Saf-T-Boots.**
Medium to Large Original Designs

Field of Leaves SF15
21 1/2" x 18" x 5/8" d., 54 lbs.

A swirling pattern of oak and beech leaves. A flexible contemporary design paying homage to the fuel of the fire. Use in a horizontal or vertical position; use alone or with others to create a number of sizes.

Field of Leaves SF15
21 1/2" h., 36" w. (two 18" w., 54 lbs. each)

Use alone, or with others side by side to create a number of sizes.

18" Field of Stars SF18
21 1/2" x 18" x 1/2" d., 40 lbs.

Field of fifty stars from the flag of the United States of America. Use in a horizontal or vertical position; use alone or with others to create a number of sizes.

14" Field of Stars SF14
14 1/4" x 21 1/2" x 1/2" d., 34 lbs.

Use in a horizontal or vertical position, alone or with others to create a number of sizes. Its thin profile is a perfect fit in a Rumford fireplace.

Pictured on the left is a fireplace with three 14 1/4" Field of Stars firebacks creating an impressive 42 3/4" wide fireback.

14" Field of Stars SF14
21 1/2" h., 28 1/2" w., 1/2" d. (two 14 1/4" w., 34 lbs. each)
A traditional American Eagle holding an olive branch, arrows and banner, with a sunburst of seven major and six minor rays piercing the clouds in a field of fifty stars. This fireback was created in 1982 to commemorate the two-hundredth anniversary of the American Bald Eagle’s use on the Great Seal of the United States.

American Eagle SF01
20 1/2” w., 21 1/2” h., 5/8” d., 46 lbs.

The Tall Oak, with highly detailed elements, was designed to complete the range of sizes offered in our line of oak-themed firebacks.

Tall Oak SF20
21 1/2” w., 21 1/2” h., 1” d., 61 lbs.

A romantic view of distant mountains and a family of geese framed by intertwined arched trees sitting on a rocky hilltop.

Mountain View SF13
21 1/2” w., 21 1/2” h., 7/8” d., 56 lbs.

Romance under the rising stars of Orion, the hunter, with his dogs Sirius and Procyon confronting the retreating bull Taurus, while Lepus, the hare, is hiding just above the horizon.

Winter SF09-W
21 1/2” w., 21 1/2” h., 7/8” d., 58 lbs.

By the light of the harvest moon, a farmer pauses for reflection, as a flight of geese pass by. Filling out this romantic scene are ducks, a squirrel, a turtle, a red-winged blackbird and the awakening owl.

Autumn SF09-A
21 1/2” w., 21 1/2” h., 7/8” d., 60 lbs.

Nature’s renewal is celebrated in this charming fireback. Children delight in the warmth of spring with ten birds, two rabbits, two deer and an advancing turtle.

Spring SF09-S
21 1/2” w., 21 1/2” h., 7/8” d., 55 lbs.
Passing a cape’s Light House, a fast American clipper ship returns to port greeted by seagulls and a pilot ship to guide it safely to its harbor. In the surf a message in a bottle bobs to be found another day.

The Large Plain Panel Fireback displays a simple elegance indicative of the decorative arts created during the Georgian Period (1714-1800).

A symbol of hospitality, this elegant raised panel fireback features a finely detailed large pineapple.

The largest of the original designs, this substantial fireback will be the focal point of the hearth. The oak tree is a symbol of strength, durability, and unity.

The Large Clipper Ship Fireback is pictured in the Living Room hearth of a Designer Showcase House in Historic Cape May, New Jersey.
Popular as a decorative element in the late eighteenth century, the rooster had long been a symbol of victory. This was cast no later than 1775 at the first of two Aetna foundries located in southern New Jersey near present day Medford Lakes.

Aetna Rooster AF05
22" w., 26" h., 3/4" d., 57 lbs.

This fireback’s prominently arched top and highly detailed border are features which distinguish it from more traditional American fireback frames. A trade card engraved by Paul Revere for Webb’s store located it as being “near Oliver’s Dock.”

Joseph Webb Stag AF01
26 1/4" w., 28 1/4" h., 7/8" d., 92 lbs.

Founded by Henry Francis DuPont, Winterthur is the premier museum of American decorative arts. Pennsylvania Firebacks was honored to have made patterns from their collection and to have received the museum’s Technical Excellence Award for Historic Reproductions.

Winterthur Antique Reproductions

Aetna Rooster Fireback

Pennsylvania Firebacks

WINTERTHUR® REPRODUCTIONS

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Winterthur® Reproductions
Catoctin Furnace  AF04  
22 3/8" w., 21 1/4" h., 1 1/8" d., 57 lbs.

Located near present day Camp David, Catoctin Furnace was built in 1775-1776 by Thomas Johnson, the first governor of Maryland. Benjamin Blackford and Thomas Thornburgh were partners in this Maryland foundry from 1801 to 1812.

Eagle and Shield  AF03  
17 1/4" w., 25 1/2" h. 
5/8" d., 63 lbs.

With the adoption of the Great Seal of the United States in 1782, the American bald eagle was applied to numerous household items. Probably cast in England between 1785 and 1810. Our reproduction is also on display at The Museum of The American Revolution, in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.

Pine Grove Furnace  AF02  
21" w., 25 3/4" h. 
5/8" d., 59 lbs.

The classical urn and flower motif were popular ornamentations for firebacks in late eighteenth century America. The addition of the bird in the foliage was less common. This was cast in south central Pennsylvania at Pine Grove furnace in the early 1770's.

Hereford Stove Plate  SP01  
22 3/4" w., 23 1/4" h. 
3/4" d., 62 lbs.

This side from a dismantled five plate stove was used for many years as a fireback. Pennsylvania’s Hereford furnace was built in 1745 by Thomas Maybury. William Maybury managed this furnace from 1757 to 1764.

Floral Panel  FP01-S  
14 5/8" w., 29 1/2" h. 
3/8" d., 47 lbs.

Use vertical or horizontal. The thin profile of the Floral Panel makes it a perfect for a Rumford fireplace.

Belgium  AF07  
21 1/4" w., 26 1/8" h. 
5/8" d., 80 lbs.

This is a reproduction of Fireback thought to have been cast in Belgium in the nineteenth century and brought to America. The floral Art Nouveau border and prominent arched top lend this Fireback a distinct European flavor.
Pennsylvania Fireback can be easily and safely installed in your hearth with a pair of Saf-T-Boot fireback supports.

The Saf-T-Boot’s unique step design enables a fireback to be held leaning slightly back, upright, or leaning forward at a number of angles against the back wall of the hearth.

Saf-T-Boots and your fireback can be used with most cast iron grates, wrought iron grates, andirons, or gas log systems.

Pictured to the right is a Three Bears Fireback leaning forward on a pair of Saf-T-Boots. Pictured below from left to right, the fireback is positioned leaning slightly back and leaning slightly forward.

Materials Needed: Stove polish or stove black, toothbrush, small container.

Apply stove polish with toothbrush uniformly, starting with the back first.

When dried remove paste or polish with a rag or wire brush.

Saf-T-Boots SB3
1 3/4" - 2" - 2 1/2" - 3" steps
8 1/4" deep,
11 lbs.

Polishing your Fireback

- Excess paint, rust, ash or cresote on your fireback can be removed with a wire brush or steel wool.
- For a brightly polished, durable, and easy to maintain finish in the hearth, apply stove polish or stove black.
Installing a Pennsylvania Fireback™

FREE STANDING:
To insure the proper balance when used free standing in a hearth, the bottom of your Fireback must always be closer to you than the top.
To prevent the top of your Fireback from falling forward place bricks or other suitable non-flammable spacers between the back wall and bottom of the Fireback. The spacers should be thick enough to insure that the bottom of the Fireback can not be pushed out of balance.
DO NOT USE your Fireback with a “Wall of Fire” type grate or lean burning logs against it.

SUPPORTED:
A Fireback can be safely supported in a hearth using the Saf-T-Boot™ support system.
In hearths with forward leaning back walls the Saf-T-Boot’s™ patented step design enables a Fireback to be supported at a variety of angles. Saf-T-Boots™ can be used with any standard grate, andirons, or gas log system.
DO NOT USE with a “Wall of Fire” type grate or lean burning logs against your Fireback.

MAINTENANCE:
With use, your Fireback can be cleaned in place with a wire brush. To protect your Fireback and give it a bright, durable, and easy to maintain finish in the hearth, it is recommended that a coat of Stove Polish or Stove Black be applied. With use, a periodic spot touch-up coat of polish can be applied in place to your Fireback.

WARRANTY:
Pennsylvania Firebacks are conditionally guaranteed against defects in the quality of materials and labor for a period of 5 years from date of purchase.

THINK SAFETY FIRST:
Contact your local certified chimney sweep from the National Chimney Sweep Guild to perform a safety check on your chimney and hearth.

Using Your Pennsylvania Fireback™

HANDLE YOUR FIREBACK WITH CARE.
Cast iron is fragile and will crack or break if treated improperly.
Edges and corners can be sharp.

INSPECT IT:
When you first remove your Fireback from its box, examine it carefully for cracks or other damage. Minor imperfections (sand holes, inclusions, dimensional differences) are inherent in the sand casting process.

ABOUT THE FINISH:
The Fireback has been dipped in a water base paint to inhibit rust during transportation.

THE FACTORY APPLIED FINISH IS NOT INTENDED FOR DISPLAY. Paint bubbles, streaks or imperfections will wear off with use or can be removed with a wire brush, steel wool or sandpaper. Bare spots can be covered with Stove Polish.
If the shipping box is exposed to moisture in transportation or following delivery, surface rust may appear on your Fireback. This surface rust can easily be removed with a wire brush, steel wool or sandpaper. Stove Polish should then be applied.
For use in a hearth, a coat of Stove Polish or Stove Black paste is recommended. Stove Polish or Stove Black can be applied over the factory applied finish. Lightly sanding the high spots of the fireback’s factory applied finish with a medium sandpaper is recommended before applying polish. With use, a periodic spot touch-up coat of Stove Polish can be applied in place to your Fireback.
For use of your Fireback behind a cook top or as a wall plaque, a coating of Rust-Oleum or similar metal primer and finish spray paint is recommended.
Do not expose your Fireback to water or oil.

WARNING:
• DO NOT expose your Fireback to coal fires.
• DO NOT expose your Fireback to water or oil.
• DO NOT USE your Fireback with a “Wall of Fire” type grate or lean burning logs against your Fireback.

CURE IT:
A new Fireback must be cured. The gentle process of building several small successive fires will cure the iron for future use. Rapid expansion of uncured cast iron caused by excessive initial heating can cause your Fireback to crack.

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