Safe Appliance

Since 1983

CHAD-O-CHEF

Lifestyle products

# FOCUS
# FLUELESS GAS FIREPLACE
# INSTALLATION & OPERATING INSTRUCTION MANUAL

Please read these instructions carefully before installation and operation. Retain these instructions for future reference.



## VFGS700 / VFG1000

These appliances conform to the requirements of SANS 1539

For permit number see: https://lpgas.co.za/resources/permitted-appliances-database/

STYLE • SAFETY



CONGRATULATIONS

on your purchase of a

**CHAD-O-CHEF FIREPLACE**

and WELCOME to the

**CHAD-O-CHEF**

*family*

QUALITY THAT LASTS

# TABLE OF CONTENTS


General Instructions and Safety Notes ..... 2-3

Specifications ..... 4-5

INSTALLATION REQUIREMENTS ..... 6

INSTALLATION INSTRUCTIONS ..... 6-7

MANUAL VALVE:

NG6801 VALVE: Operating Instructions ..... 8

NG6801 VALVE: Pressure Testing ..... 8-9

A-SERIES VALVE: Operating Instructions ..... 10

A-SERIES VALVE: Pressure Testing ..... 11

REMOTE VALVE:

MERTIC VALVE: Setting up instructions ..... 12-13

MERTIC VALVE & PUCK/REMOTE ..... 14-16

MERTIC VALVE: Pressure Testing ..... 16-17

Changing the batteries ..... 18-19

Checklist For Gas Installer ..... 20

Caution ..... 20

Warnings ..... 21

Cleaning ..... 22

Servicing ..... 22

Guarantee ..... 23

Manufacturer Details ..... 23

# GENERAL INSTRUCTIONS AND SAFETY NOTES

Thank you for purchasing your new CHAD-O-CHEF Gas Fireplace manufactured to the highest standards and compliant to SANS 1539.

1. This appliance may only be installed by a registered gas installer with the South African Qualification and Certification Committee for Gas (SAQCC Gas) for the applicable gas type. Registered Gas Installers can be found and verified on the LPGSA website.
   - For LPG, the appliance must be installed in accordance with the requirements of SANS 10087-1.
   - For Natural Gas (NG), the appliance must be installed in accordance with the requirements of SANS 827.

   Cognisance must be given to local fire authority regulations and/or local bylaws applicable to the area. Upon completion of the installation, the installer can explain and demonstrate the safe operation applicable to the appliance and the installation. You will be asked to sign acceptance of the installation and be provided with a Certificate of Compliance (COC) for safekeeping.

2. This appliance is designed to provide radiant heat both efficiently and safely. This requires that the appliance is installed correctly in an adequately ventilated area as the appliance consumes oxygen in its normal operation

   No permanent ventilation is required if the room volume ($m^3$) matches or exceeds the minimum requirement specified for the applicable appliance (see pg.4), although an opening window is recommended. Should the room size be smaller than the minimum room volume, permanent ventilation will be required. This volume may include 50% of adjoining rooms connected by permanent openings exceeding 1.5$m^2$ in floor size, but not rooms separated by a closable door.

3. Where permanent ventilation is required, two openings shall be installed, with one at high level and one at low level. Each opening shall have a free cross sectional area of not less than 6.5$cm^2$ per mJ/h of heat input. The heat input of other gas, wood, coal, paraffin, ethanol or similar appliances must be included in the calculations. It is the installer's responsibility to do these calculations on behalf of the homeowner.

4. The maximum room sizes specified on pg. 4 under specifications are recommended and may vary according to factors such as home insulation, materials, climate and so fourth.

5. DO NOT install in bathrooms, bedrooms, toilets or saunas.

6. The manufacturer and /or its agents and distributors will not be held responsible for injuries or damages caused by illegal, faulty or incorrect installation or use of the appliance.

7. Read more about LPG safety on our website: https://chad-o-chef.co.za/how-safe-is-lpg-in-your-home/

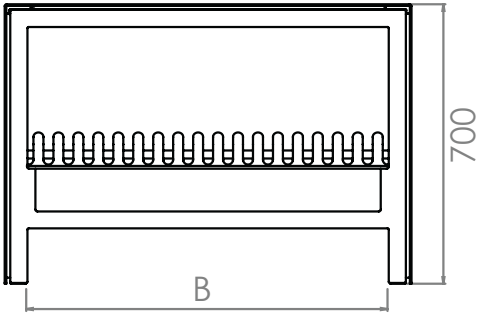
   Note: Upon initial light-up of your new fireplace, some fumes may be emitted from the unit. This is normal and should discontinue within a few hours of normal operation. Accordingly, the room should be well ventilated with all windows open during this period.

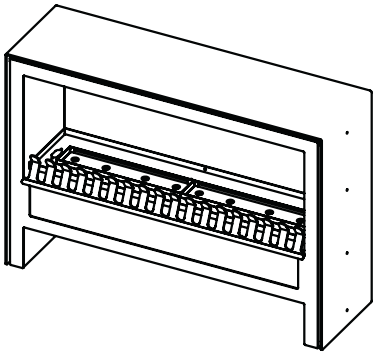
# SPECIFICATIONS

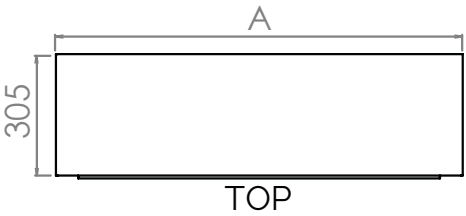
**Select the applicable size, model and gas type & follow the instructions appropriately:**

| **Model** | **VFGS700** | **VFGS700-N** |
|---|---|---|
| Gas type | LPG | Natural Gas |
| Operating pressure | 2,8 kPa | 2.0 kPa |
| Min Regulator size to comply with SANS 1237 | 2 kg/hr | N/A |
| Max. gas consumption | 0.64kg/hr | N/A |
| Max. mJ input | 32 mJ/hr | N/A |
| Max. kW input | 8.7 kWh | |
| Gas inlet connection | Ø8mm compression | |
| Ignition | Piezo Spark | |
| Oxygen depletion system ( Pilot ) | ODS min 18.5% O2 | |
| Min Room size without permanent ventilation | 160m³ | |
| Max room size for effective usage | 398m³ (108m²) | |

| **Model** | **VFGS1000** | **VFGS1000-N** |
|---|---|---|
| Gas type | LPG | Natural Gas |
| Operating pressure | 2,8 kPa | 2.0 kPa |
| Min Regulator size to comply with SANS 1237 | 2 kg/hr | N/A |
| Max. gas consumption | 0.84kg/hr | N/A |
| Max. mJ input | 42 mJ/hr | N/A |
| Max. kW input | 11.4 kWh | |
| Gas inlet connection | Ø8mm compression | |
| Ignition | Piezo Spark | |
| Oxygen depletion system ( Pilot ) | ODS min 18.5% O2 | |
| Min Room size without permanent ventilation | 210m³ | |
| Max room size for effective usage | 544m³ (163m²) | |






| MODEL | SIZE (A) | SIZE (B) |
|---|---|---|
| VFGS700 | 720 | 605 |
| VFGS1000 | 1020 | 905 |

# INSTALLATION REQUIREMENTS

**The Focus Fireplace is designed to be retrofitted on the floor, against an open wall in your living area. Building work is not required, but a heat resistant floor and wall covering is advised.**

**Choosing a site:**

This fireplace may be installed in any room in your home except for bedrooms, bathrooms, toilets and saunas. Avoid areas where there are strong draughts, which may be generated by open doors. It is recommended that the fireplace should not be installed within 500mm of any air vent, as this could affect the working of the ODS.

**Clearances:**

*Combustible materials* are defined as wood, fabrics, or other materials likely to burn when exposed to the flame. Any other material which is likely to discolor, melt, or lose shape when exposed to moderate heat, should fall into the same category.

**Clearances to <u>combustible</u> materials:**

| | |
|---|---|
| Min clearance to the sides | 100 mm |
| Min clearance to the sides for curtains & fabric | 500 mm |
| Min clearance to the ceiling | 800 mm |
| Min clearance to combustible furniture in front | 1000 mm |

**A heat resistant masonry shelf may be fitted 500mm above the fireplace** but under no circumstances should any electrical equipment such as a TV be positioned above. Any ornaments positioned above the fireplace must be able to withstand the elevated temperatures and moisture. No combustible materials whatsoever must be used or placed above the fireplace.

**Should these guidelines not be adhered to, your fireplace & surrounds will be at risk for damage, and the manufacturer will not be held liable.**

# INSTALLATION INSTRUCTIONS FOR QUALIFIED GAS INSTALLER

**Unpacking**

Carefully undo the strapping to separate loose parts.

**Positioning and Sizing**

Confirm that the size of the fireplace & specifications chosen is correct for the room it is being installed into. Build up a heat resistant masonry platform to the customers design, with a suitable space to place the grate, adhering to the clearances to combustible material specifications.

**Connect up according to SANS 10087-1 for use with LPG, or according to SANS 827 for use with Natural Gas.**

Connect a copper pipe from the gas supply via a regulator, complying with SANS 1237, to the Ø8 compression fitting supplied on the control valve or connecting pipe, taking into account the distance from the gas supply, to calculate the size of the copper pipe.

**Setting up**

1. Insert the burner with the venturi facing the gas jet, and ensure the burner is seated correctly.
2. Fill the burner with the special **black** radiant ceramic ash or glass stones.
3. Spread the small white chips or glass stones evenly around the burner (do not use the white chips inside the burner).
4. Place the coals in a single layer, spread across the burner, allowing about 10mm gaps between them.
5. **Only use the type & qty of stones provided with the fireplace.**
6. **Insert the batteries & pair the remote if using a Remote/Mertic valve system.**

**Testing and Commissioning**

Turn on the gas supply and test for leaks with soapy water.
Ensure that the **OPERATING PRESSURE is 2,8 kPa at the control valve for an LPG connection, or 2.0 kPa for a Natural Gas connection**.
(See Pressure Testing on pg. 8-9)

**Briefing the customer**

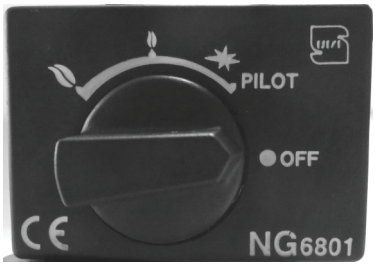
All instructions must be handed over to the user for safekeeping. Instruct the customer how to turn the gas on and off and how to light and control the fire.

After commissioning the unit, the customer should be instructed on the safe use of it and the need for regular servicing. Frequency of service depends on usage but must be carried out at the first sign of malfunction and at least once in 2 years.

# NG6801 VALVE: OPERATING INSTRUCTIONS

The ODS pilot is situated on the side of the burner.

The gas control valve is accessible by removing the lower door. Slide the door up and out of its bracket.




1. Push in and turn the control knob to the pilot position and hold it there for a few seconds to allow the gas to feed to the pilot.
2. Continue turning anti-clockwise through the PILOT to click at the SPARK position. Ensure that the pilot is lit. If not, return to OFF position and repeat.
3. When the pilot is lit, keep the knob depressed for approximately 10 to 15 seconds.
4. Now release the knob and the pilot should stay alight.
   If the pilot is extinguished during use, wait 3 minutes before repeating the ignition procedure.
5. Continue turning the knob anticlockwise to the HIGH position and the main burner should light after a few seconds
6. Select the required HIGH or LOW setting.
7. To turn the fire OFF, depress the knob and turn it clockwise to the OFF position and release. This will extinguish both the main burner and the pilot burner.

# NG6801 VALVE: PRESSURE TESTING

The operating pressure should be according to the data set out in the SPECIFICATIONS on pg. 4. The fireplace is factory set to work at these pressures and any significant variation could indicate a supply problem.

If the pressure is too high or too low, then check the inlet pressure, by the following procedures.

(Continued on next page)

# NG6801 VALVE: PRESSURE TESTING

1. Before Conducting a pressure test, ensure that the in-line shut-off valve is closed.
2. Access the valve by removing the lower door. Slide the door up and out of its bracket.
3. Remove the plastic valve cover by gripping both sides and pulling towards you.
4. Check your valve type before continuing further:
    - Diagram A - The inlet pressure testing point is provided by the gas installer. You will need to locate this to continue.
    - Diagram B - The inlet pressure testing point is provided by the manufacturer. This is located at the 'T' testing point at the valve.

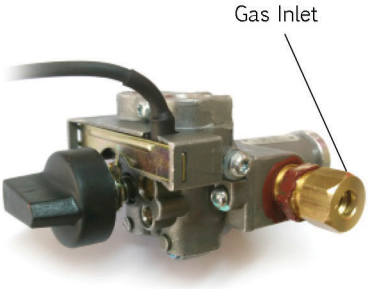



*Diagram A*

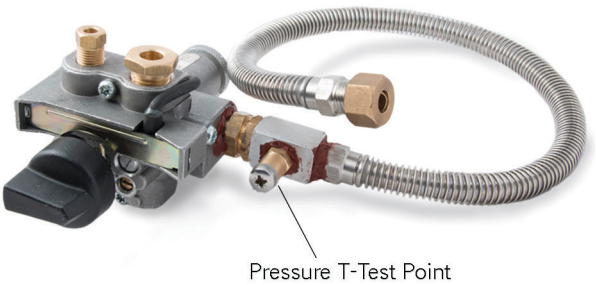



*Diagram B*

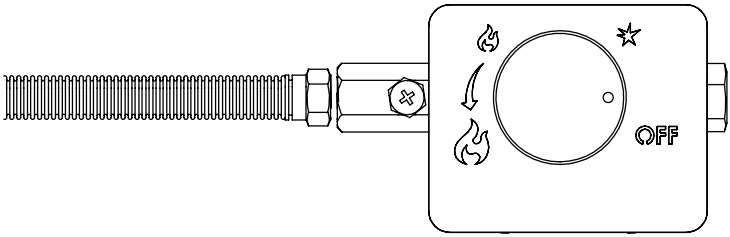
5. Open the testing point by removing the M5 screw & sealing washer.
6. Connect your pressure gauge to the open testing point.
7. Re-open the in-line shut-off valve and ignite the fireplace as per the operating instructions. Make sure to set to HIGH for the duration of this process.
8. Allow the fireplace to run for at least 5 minutes in order to stabilise the line pressure. Once stabilised, set the operating line pressure to 2.8kpa (for LPG or 2.0kPa (for NG). Do not set the pressure while the line is static, as this will result in inaccuracy.
9. Once set, close the shut off valve to extinguish the flame and stop the gas flow.
10. Ensure that the M5 screw & sealing washer are free of debris & replace tightly to close the testing point.
11. Conduct a leak test to ensure that there are no leaks at the testing point.

# A-SERIES VALVE: OPERATING INSTRUCTIONS

The ODS pilot is situated on the side of the burner.

The gas control valve is accessible by removing the lower door. Slide the door up and out of its bracket.

1. Push in and turn the control knob to the **pilot** position and hold it there for a few seconds to allow the gas to feed to the pilot.
2. Continue turning anti-clockwise through the PILOT to click at the SPARK position. Ensure that the pilot is lit. If not, return to OFF position and repeat.
3. When the pilot is lit, keep the knob depressed for approximately 10 to 15 seconds.
4. Now release the knob and the pilot should stay alight.
   If the pilot is extinguished during use, wait 3 minutes before repeating the ignition procedure.
5. Continue turning the knob anticlockwise to the HIGH position and the main burner should light after a few seconds
6. Select the required HIGH or LOW setting.
7. To turn the fire OFF, depress the knob and turn it clockwise to the OFF position and release. This will extinguish both the main burner and the pilot burner.

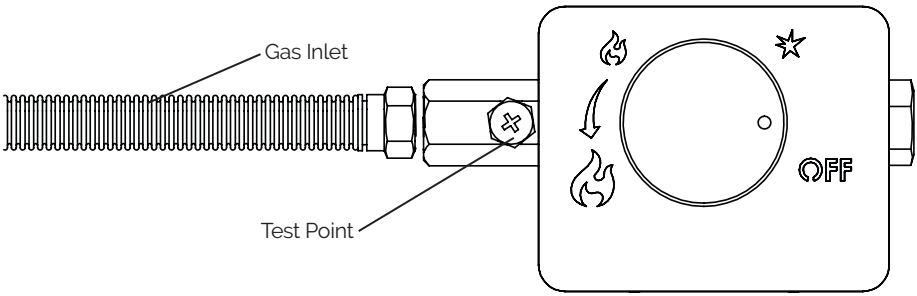


# A-SERIES VALVE: PRESSURE TESTING

The operating pressure should be according to the data set out in the SPECIFICATIONS on pg. 4-5. The fireplace is factory set to work at these pressures and any significant variation could indicate a supply problem.

If the pressure is too high or too low, then check the inlet pressure, by the following procedures.

1. Before Conducting a pressure test, ensure that the in-line shut-off valve is closed.
2. Access the valve by removing the lower door. Slide the door up and out of its bracket.
5. Open the testing point by removing the M5 screw & sealing washer.
6. Connect your pressure gauge to the open testing point.
7. Re-open the in-line shut-off valve and ignite the fireplace as per the operating instructions. Make sure to set to HIGH for the duration of this process.




8. Allow the fireplace to run for at least 5 minutes in order to stabilise the line pressure. Once stabilised, set the operating line pressure to 2.8kpa (for LPG or 2.0kPa (for NG). Do not set the pressure while the line is static, as this will result in inaccuracy.
9. Once set, close the shut off valve to extinguish the flame and stop the gas flow.
10. Ensure that the M5 screw & sealing washer are free of debris & replace tightly to close the testing point.
11. Conduct a leak test to ensure that there are no leaks at the testing point.

# MERTIC VALVE: SETTING UP INSTRUCTIONS

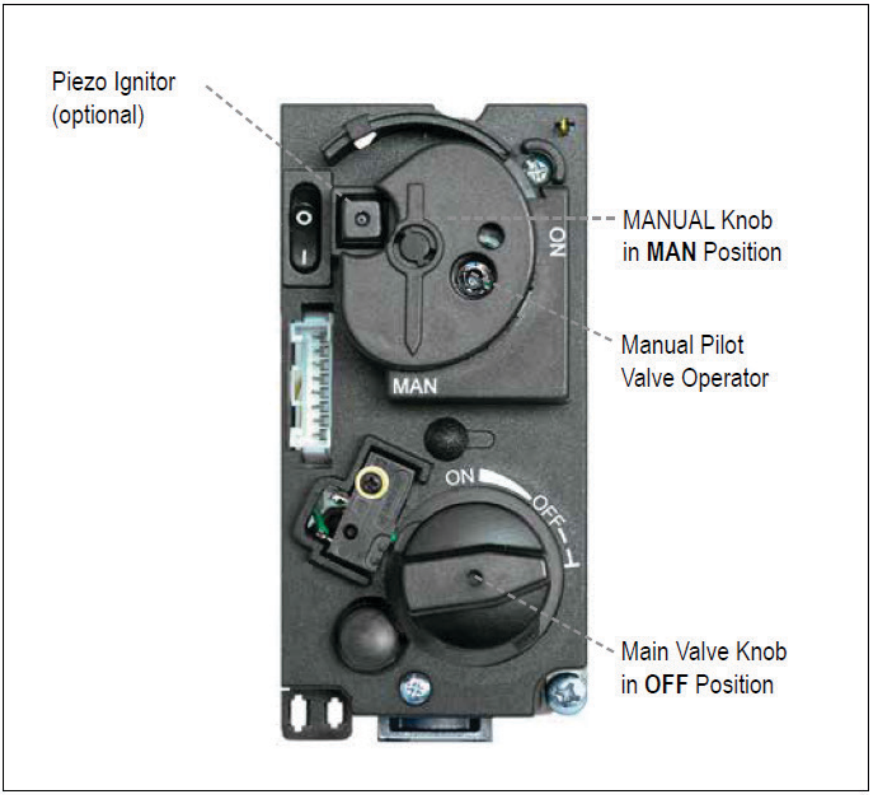
**Setting up the Mertic Valve**

The Installer is expected to set this up and show the customer how to operate it correctly on completion.

Synchronization of the Receiver & The Puck/Remote
(First time use only)

1. Insert batteries into the Puck/Remote as well as the Receiver located inside the fireplace.
   (See instructions on inserting batteries on pg 16-17)

2. Ensure that the manual knob is turned to the **ON** position.



3. The receiver has to learn the Puck code:
   Press and hold the receiver's reset button (see below) until you hear two beeps. After the second, longer beep, release the reset button. Within the subsequent 20 seconds press the "–" button on the handset. Two short beeps confirm the code is set.




**NOTE:** This is a one-time setting only, and it is not required after changing the batteries in the handset or receiver.

**NOTE:** The receiver transmits and receives signals (bidirectional) and the handset transmits signals (unidirectional).

The handset and receiver sync status information every 4 to 6 min up to 1 h.

### Testing and Commissioning

Turn on the gas supply and test for leaks with soapy water.
Ensure that the **OPERATING PRESSURE is 2,8 kPa at the control valve for an LPG connection, or 2.0 kPa for a Natural Gas connection**.
(See Pressure Testing on pg. 14-15)

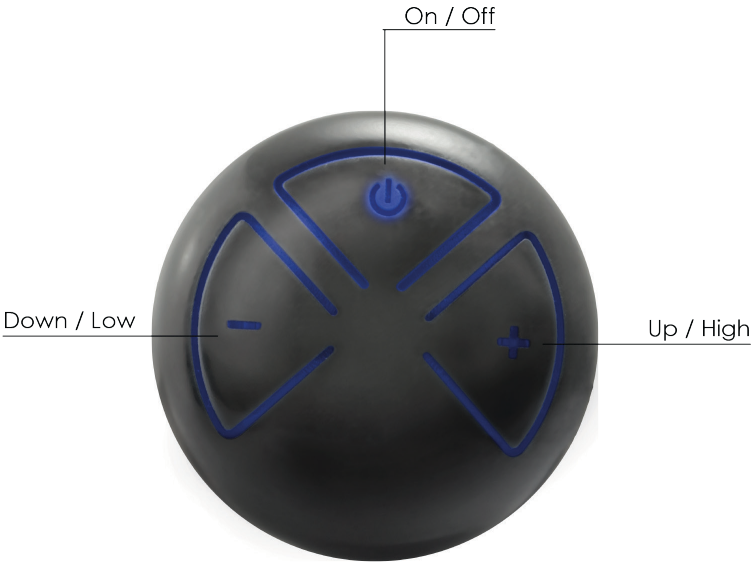
### Briefing the customer

All instructions must be handed over to the user for safekeeping. Instruct the customer how to turn the gas on and off and how to light and control the fire.

After commissioning the unit, the customer should be instructed on the safe use of it, how to replace the batteries and the need for regular servicing. Frequency of service depends on usage but must be carried out at the first sign of malfunction and at least once in 2 years.

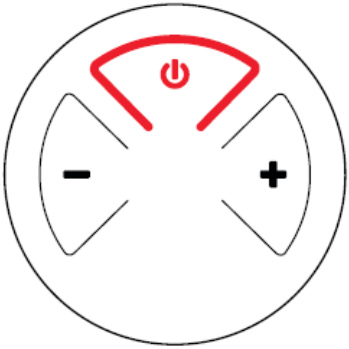
# MERTIC VALVE & PUCK/REMOTE OPERATING INSTRUCTIONS

The Puck is a smart control that works in conjunction with the GV60 / Symax system. Its basic functions include turning the fire on and off and turning the flame height up and down.




**Modes of operation**

**NOTE:** When the pilot ignition is confirmed, motor turns automatically to maximum flame height

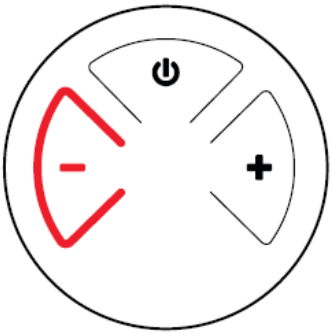


**TURN ON & OFF**

- Press and hold the button until two short beeps confirm the start sequence has begun; release button.
- Main gas flows once pilot ignition is confirmed.
- Press and hold the button to turn OFF.

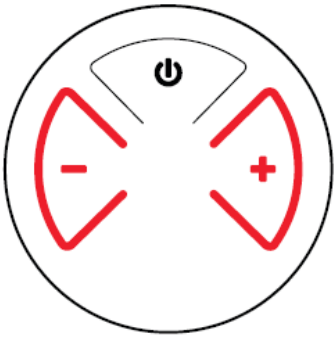
# MERTIC VALVE & PUCK/REMOTE OPERATING INSTRUCTIONS

NOTE: If the pilot does not stay lit after several tries, turn the main valve knob to the OFF position (See pg. 10)



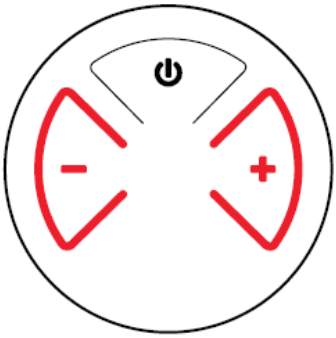
STANDBY MODE (PILOT FLAME)

Press and hold the "–" button to set appliance to pilot flame



FLAME HEIGHT ADJUSTMENT

To increase flame height press and hold "+" button.
To decrease flame height or to set appliance to pilot flame, press and hold "–" button.



DESIGNATED LOW FIRE AND HIGH FIRE

To go to high fire, double-click "+" button.
To go to low fire, double-click "–" button.
NOTE: Flame goes to high fire first before going to low fire.

# MERTIC VALVE & PUCK/REMOTE OPERATING INSTRUCTIONS

**Problem Shooting:**

**Low Battery Receiver**

With low battery power in the receiver the system shuts off the fire completely. This will not happen if the power supply is interrupted.

**System Override Shutoff**

12 Second Shutoff

If the fire will not shutoff by pressing the power button, press and hold the power button for 12 seconds to shut the fire off.

# MERTIC VALVE: PRESSURE TESTING

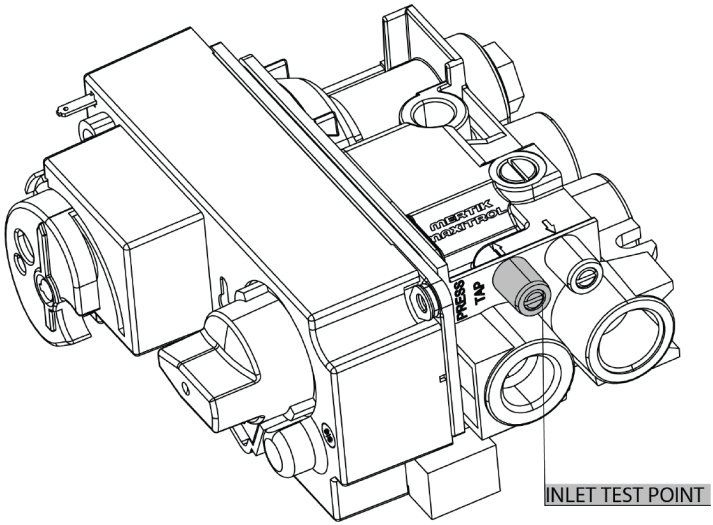
The operating pressure should be according to the data set out in the SPECIFICATIONS on pg. 4. The fireplace is factory set to work at these pressures and any significant variation could indicate a supply problem.

If the pressure is too high or too low, then check the inlet pressure, by the following procedures.

(Continued on next page)

# MERTIC VALVE: PRESSURE TESTING

1. Before conducting a pressure test, ensure that the in-line shut-off valve is closed.
2. Access the valve by lifting up the front door of the fireplace (see diagram on pg. 16. Locate the Inlet test point as depicted in the diagram below:



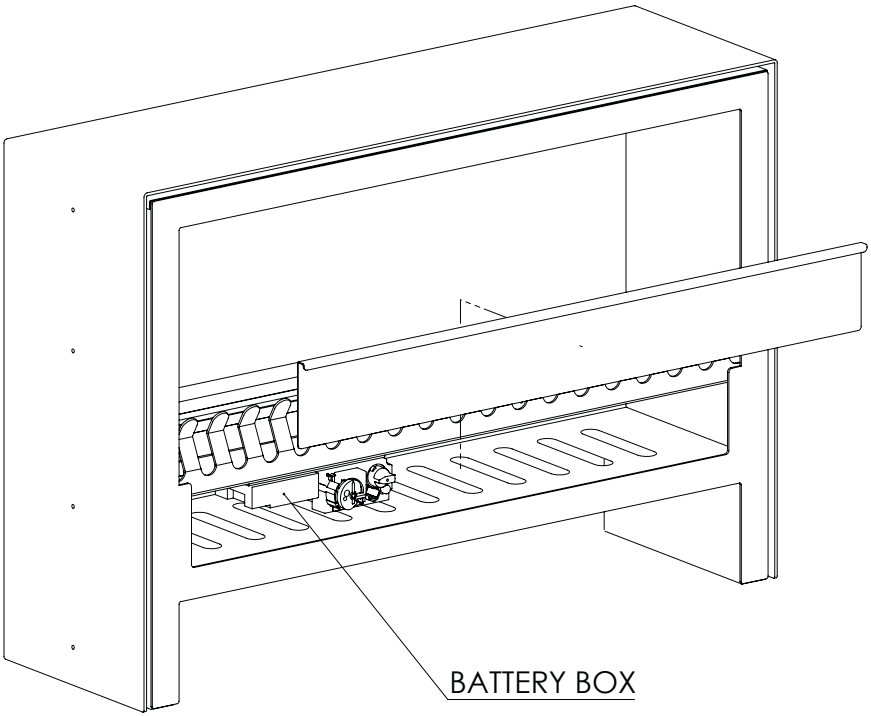

5. Open the testing point by loosening the inlet test point screw.
6. Connect your pressure gauge to the open testing point.
7. Re-open the in-line shut-off valve and ignite the fireplace as per the operating instructions. Make sure to set to HIGH for the duration of this process.
8. Allow the fireplace to run for at least 5 minutes in order to stabilise the line pressure. Once stabilised, set the operating line pressure to 2.8kpa (for LPG or 2.0kPa (for NG). Do not set the pressure while the line is static, as this will result in inaccuracy.
9. Once set, close the shut off valve to extinguish the flame and stop the gas flow.
10. Ensure that the inlet test point screw is free of debris & replace tightly to close the testing point.
11. Conduct a leak test to ensure that there are no leaks at the testing point.

# CHANGING THE BATTERIES

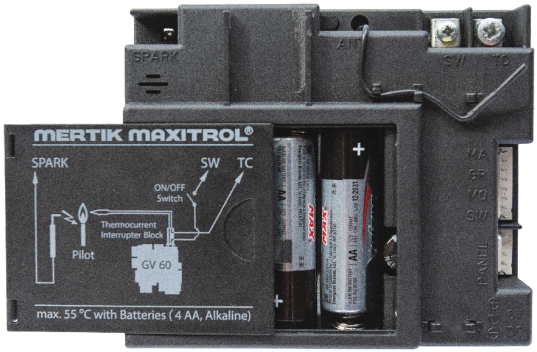
The remote control holds 2 x AAA Batteries that will need to be changed periodically. This can be easily done by the user as needed.

The receiver also holds 4 x AA Batteries that will need to be changed periodically. Follow these instructions to locate and replace the batteries. This should be done by the user or service technician as often as needed.

1. To locate the valve batteries, slide the door up and remove the valve cover, you can now access the Battery Box on the LHS of the Valve



2. Open the battery box and replace the 4 x AA batteries. Ensure that you use a good brand to avoid leakage.




3. Test the unit before closing the battery box and replacing the door.

## IMPORTANT

- Make sure that you are able to access the receiver's battery compartment easily.
- To avoid damaging the electronics, do NOT use metal tools to remove the batteries from the handset / receiver.
- Do NOT expose batteries (including during storage) to direct sunlight, excessive heat, fire, moisture, or severe impact. Each of these conditions can cause the batteries to overheat, leak, and / or explode.
- Do not use rechargeable batteries, as they do not provide a suitable amount of power for the correct operation of this unit.
- Do not use old or mix used and new batteries. Doing so can lead to erratic operation or even malfunction of the control system. Insert brand new, preferably matching batteries to begin with and follow the battery replacement recommendation below.
- We strongly recommend replacing both remote (2 x AAA) and receiver (4 x AA) batteries at the beginning of each winter.
- Only reputable alkaline brands (i.e. Energizer) should be used — do not use low-cost or unknown brands.

# CHECKLIST FOR GAS INSTALLER

**Before calling the manufacturer, ensure that all the checkpoints below conform. Refer to the latest SANS 1539.**

- ☐ Check there is gas in the gas bottle (if bottle is nearing empty change over to new bottle)
- ☐ Check that the inlet operating pressure is 2.8 kPa for LPG or 2.0 kPa for NG (whilst running). **If not correct:**
  - ☐ Check that the supply pipe is the correct diameter for the distance covered.
  - ☐ Check that the regulator is functioning correctly.
- ☐ The burner must be correctly positioned and sitting flush on the bottom plate,
- ☐ Jet is centrally aligned with the burner venturi.
- ☐ Check for spider webs in the venturi.
- ☐ The **black** ceramic ash or **Glass** supplied with Chad-O-Chef fireplaces must be inside the burner & the **white** decorative stone (if applicable) surrounding the burner.
- ☐ Ensure that the coals or pebbles supplied by Chad-O-Chef are placed as recommended with a 10mm gap between them.
- ☐ DO NOT use more coals or pebbles than recommended and supplied.
- ☐ The room must be bigger than the minimum room size specified for your fireplace (See Page 4) If not:
- ☐ Ensure that adequate ventilation requirements have been met. (See Page 2)
- ☐ Ensure that the remote and receivers batteries are still working, if not replace.

# CAUTION

**Do not tamper with jets, burners or regulator settings. NEVER MODIFY OR BEND THE THERMOCOUPLE TO MAKE THE PILOT STAY ALIGHT. CHAD-O-CHEF products are preset and tested to function efficiently and are approved by the LPGSA.**

**Should a burn back occur, i.e. the jet catching alight at the entry to the burner with a noticeable loud rushing sound: Turn the gas off immediately and relight after 1 min. If condition persists, contact your gas installer.**

**Should a leak in the gas be detected, turn off the gas at the gas cylinder, and contact your installer immediately.**

**Should there be an unexplained shutdown, which could be the result of insufficient oxygen in the room, shut off the gas supply, then open windows and doors in the room, wait 5 min before attempting to restart. If condition persists, contact your gas installer.**

## WARNING

This appliance shall **not** be installed in bedrooms or bathrooms.

## WARNING

This is an un-vented gas heater. It uses air (oxygen) from the room in which it is installed. Provisions for adequate ventilation must be provided. Refer to appropriate section of the user manual.

## WARNING
## CARBON MONOXIDE POISONING
### CAN LEAD TO DEATH

Carbon monoxide poisoning: Early signs of carbon monoxide poisoning resemble the flu, with headaches, dizziness or nausea. If you have these signs, the heater may not be working properly. Get fresh air at once. Have the heater serviced. Some people are more affected by carbon monoxide than others. These include pregnant women, people with heart or lung disease or anemia, those under the influence of alcohol, and those at high altitudes.

## WARNING

Fire or Explosion Hazard. Do not disassemble
the gas valve; it contains no serviceable components.
Attempted disassembly or repair
can cause property damage, severe injury or death.

## WARNING

This appliance becomes hot when in use.

# CLEANING

Should soot deposits appear on the painted finish, first clean with a dry cloth when cold, and follow up with a cloth dampened with methylated spirits and a final buffing with a dry cloth. **Do not use an oil based cleaner, as the oil tends to discolour the painted finish when heated.**

The surrounding fascia may be cleaned with a damp cloth.

# SERVICING

Servicing must be carried out by a qualified gas installer.
Frequency of service depends on usage, but must be carried out at the first sign of malfunction and at least once in 2 years.
Spiders are the biggest pests, because they tend to occupy the smallest of holes which will be in the burner venturi or the pilot air holes. If spiders are a problem in the home, have your fireplace serviced just before the new season begins.

**Suggested procedure for servicing:**

1. Isolate the gas supply and work on a cold unit.
2. Remove the coals or pebbles.
3. Remove the burner and empty the black radiant ceramic ash into a container.
4. Clean the burner and venturi by vacuuming.
5. Remove the surrounding stone or ceramic ash and clean by vacuuming.
6. Inspect the ODS pilot and clean the airways. Check the spark gap.
7. Inspect and clean the main jet
8. Re-assemble the components.
9. Turn on the gas supply and leak test.
10. Check pilot and burner for good ignition.
11. Light the fire and check pressure settings.
12. Check the safe operation of the unit.

# GUARANTEE

Chad-O-Engineering (Pty) Ltd (COC) Guarantees cover all fireplaces manufactured by Chad-O-Chef for the duration of 2 years. Ts & Cs apply.

Refer to our website for more details on what is included in your guarantee & the appropriate steps to take when claiming:

https://chad-o-chef.co.za/guarantees/

# MANUFACTURER DETAILS

**Last Update: 2026/08/31**

**Manufactured By:**

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