

# *The Meridian*™

EASY  
MAINTENANCE  
INSTRUCTIONS



## INTRODUCTION

This small booklet provides instructions for maintaining and servicing your Meridian Stove or Fireplace Insert. Although the Meridian is the safest and most efficient solid fuel heating appliance manufactured today, like any other appliance it must be maintained and should be periodically inspected to ensure years of trouble free service.

The maintenance instructions provided in this booklet are designed to cover almost every possible problem that could arise as a result of misuse, negligence, accidental mishap, or simply ordinary wear and tear. The topics covered in this manual are listed below:

- o Regrouting
- o Changing grout color
- o Replacing loose tile
- o Replacing a broken tile
- o Patching the liner (Ceramic Fiber Composite -- CFC)
- o Replacing door hinge pin
- o Cleaning glass
- o Replacing glass
- o Tightening the door frame
- o Polishing the door
- o Painting the Pipe and Door
- o Cleaning the tiles
- o Replacing metal collar

The following pages provide easy instructions for each of the procedures listed above. Note that in some cases, your Meridian dealer may offer a Service Contract, and may perform many of these services for you. Check with your dealer for further details.

## REGROUTING

Don't worry, regrouting your stove is not the same thing as regrouting your bathroom! It's extremely simple and quick.

1. Let the fire go out. The stove can be warm, but not hot.

2. Mix 3 tablespoons of the grout with a latex grout additive (available at any tile store for about \$3 a quart - more than enough to grout your entire stove many times over!). It should be mixed to a thick consistency (like cake batter) -- however, if you are regrouting the entire stove (for example, you are changing the color of the grout) it can be mixed very thin (like the consistency of milk), which allows you to actually paint the grout onto the stove. The latex grout additive is used instead of water so that the grout will be able to expand and contract with the heat. If you are only grouting the hearth, or you are just changing the grout color of your stove, you can use water instead of the latex mix.

3. With a sponge or old paint brush (a 1 or 2 inch wide brush works fine) simply 'paint' the grout onto the stove.

4. With a damp sponge (NOT dripping wet) rub the grout into the seams between each tile.

5. Let set for 10 minutes.

6. With a damp sponge or cloth wipe off excess grout.

7. Let set another 10 minutes.

8. With a dry cloth rub down the stove, removing any grout that is still left on the tiles. This buffing action will also bring a soft lustre to the porcelain tiles.

9. Wait one hour before using the stove.

Note that hairline cracks in tile grout, whether on a ceramic floor, wall, stove, countertop or table are not unusual, and do not affect the adhesion of the tiles.

NOTE: If you are only grouting the hairline cracks in the grout, and are not regrouting the entire stove, it is better to perform this procedure while the stove is hot (because the grout crack will be expanded to its maximum point). In this case, you can wipe the excess grout off almost immediately.

## REPLACING A LOOSE TILE

Generally, no tiles ever come loose from the stove or insert. It is especially unlikely that a tile will ever come loose from the Meridian Fireplace Insert. In some cases, a tile could come loose from certain areas of the Stove (for example, those areas where the stove gets very hot -- around the door and neck of the stove). However, this is also very unlikely, and is generally due to overfiring the unit for extended periods of time, or (in the case of loose tiles around the door) as a result of failure to tighten a loose door frame.

## SIMPLE TILE REPLACEMENT

The easiest, quickest, and most SURE method of replacing a tile is to use silicone. There are currently two types of household silicone currently sold in hardware stores and home centers -- one type withstands temperatures of 350 degrees and the other type will withstand temperatures of over 500 degrees. Either of these silcones will work just fine, as no part of the surface of the stove ever gets that hot. To replace a loose tile using silicone, simply remove the loose tile and clean off the old thinset mortar from the tile and the stove. To remove the old mortar use a 1/2" wide chisel or similar tool, but BE CAREFUL not to disturb any of the other tiles! Then place the silicone on the tile or the stove and set the tile in place. Allow the tile to set for several hours before grouting.

## REPLACING SEVERAL OR MORE TILES

In cases where several tiles (in one area) have been accidentally knocked loose (for example, as a result of something falling on the stove), perform the following steps:

1. Clean the surface of the stove where the tiles have come loose. (Note: if some of the tiles were damaged but are still secure to the stove, refer to the paragraph Replacing Broken Tile).
2. Clean the old mortar from the tile, or (ideally) use new tiles which still have the mesh on the back.
3. Mix thinset mortar (available from local tile store or your dealer) with latex additive (also available from local tile store) to the consistancy of a thick mortar mix (like thick pancake batter).
4. Using a spray bottle, lightly wet the surface of the stove with water.

5. Using a 1" or 2" wide old paint brush, or stiff sponge, apply a generous amount of the thinset mortar to the stove.

6. Set the tiles in place, using a slight twisting motion to ensure that the tile bonds well. Note: if you are replacing several tiles in a row, it's best to use new tile and cut a strip of the new tile from the 1' x 1' square, leaving the mesh intact. This way you will be able to ensure that the proper amount of space is left between each tile.

7. Carefully remove the excess mortar with a damp sponge.

8. Allow the tiles to set for 2 to 3 hours. Note: if necessary, you can use masking tape to hold a tile, or row of tiles in place (to prevent them from slipping). However, if the thinset mortar mix has been properly mixed this should not be necessary.

9. After the mortar has dried, apply the color grout as described in the section, Regrouting.

#### REPLACING TILE ON THE HEARTH

To replace a tile (or tiles) on the hearth, use a premixed Latex tile adhesive (available from any hardware store) or you may use silicone. Clean the tile and hearth before applying the adhesive and tile. Allow the adhesive to dry before regrouting. Refer to regrouting instructions.

#### REPLACING BROKEN TILE

If you should break or chip one of the tiles you can remove it with hammer and chisel -- NOTE however, that unless the broken tile is really noticeable, you are better off to leave it as is. The tiles are securely held to the surface of the unit, and in order to remove the broken tile you must carefully chisel it out WITHOUT DAMAGING THE SURROUNDING TILES. In order to do this, you may need to initially use a tool other than the chisel -- for example something with a sharp point. After removing the tile, clean the surface of the stove and replace with a new tile as described above.

#### CLEANING TILES

To clean the tiles on your Meridian Stove or Fireplace Insert, simply use a mild cleaner (Window cleaner, or even just water). It is easiest to spray the cleaner or water onto the stove. Then simply wipe it dry with a paper towel or soft cloth. Use a buffing motion when drying the tile, this will bring out the tiles soft lustre.

## PATCHING THE FIREBOWL LINER (Ceramic Fiber Composite -- CFC)

**\*\*\*KEEP THIS SUBSTANCE IN AN AIR TIGHT CONTAINER UNTIL IT IS USED. (IF IT HAS BECOME A LITTLE HARD, YOU MAY MIX IN SOME WATER.) DO NOT ALLOW THIS MATERIAL TO FREEZE.\*\*\***

CFC (formerly called M-61 High Heat Coating, or 'moldable') is packed on the surface of the firebowl to insulate the firebowl from the extreme temperatures that are produced when using the stove. The firebowl itself is constructed of a specially formulated castable refractory material.

Fire brick, which is used as a liner in metal and cast iron stoves, is a type of castable refractory material. The fire brick in cast iron and metal stoves must be replaced periodically. However, it is not possible to replace the castable refractory material in the Meridian because this is the main body of the stove. [Note that the main body of the Meridian (the castable refractory material) is warrantied for a full 5 years -- longer than the life expectancy of many other wood stoves!].

Unlikew other stoves that need to have the fire brick replaced from time to time (a costly an unpleasant task), the most maintenance that the fire chamber of the Meridian 'might' require is the occassional patching of the CFC. Should it be necessary to patch the CFC, you can obtain the CFC from your dealer or directly from the manufacturer. In the meantime, you can continued to use the stove. However, continued use of the stove over a long period of time (several months) may cause damage to the fire chamber.

To patch the CFC material perform the following steps:

NOTE: If CFC is not readily available, substitute with pre-mixed furnace cement or 'Stove Patch' (available from your local hardware store). After you obtain the CFC, carefully remove the furnace cement and apply the CFC as directed.

1. Remove ONLY the CFC that is falling off the walls of the stove. DO NOT remove CFC that appears to be loose yet is still intact. Generally only those areas that are bare require patching.

2. With a wet sponge (or use a spray bottle), soak the area that is to be patched. The new CFC material is water soluble, and therefore it helps to soak the area to insure a proper adhesion.

3. With a wet rubber glove or spatula, pack the new CFC in place. Note that the CFC is NOT sticky -- it will tend to fall off unless it is PRESSED into place. No more than 1/2" thickness is required.

4. DON'T try to keep pressing and smoothing out the CFC, as this will cause it fall off. Once it is in place just leave it be -- don't worry, as soon as the stove is fired up the CFC will dry very quickly and will remain in place.

5. Carefully place paper, kindling and one or two small logs into the stove -- BE CAREFUL not to disturb the fresh CFC.

6. Light the stove (or fireplace insert).

7. Within several minutes the CFC will harden, and at the same time it will form a bond with the CFC already in the stove.

CLEAN TOOLS AND HANDS WITH WARM SOAPY WATER.

ALWAYS BE CAREFUL when placing logs into the Meridian. Also, NEVER use a sharp tool when removing the ashes, as this may damage the firebowl liner.



## REPLACING DOOR PINS

Always take care when opening and closing the door. **NEVER** push down or pull up on the door -- this will cause the pins to bend, hence, the pins will lose their strength when subjected to intense heat and could eventually snap.

If you should ever need to replace a door pin (hinge pin), obtain the pin(s) from your dealer or directly from the manufacturer. In the meantime, replace the broken pin with a bolt or nail of similar size.

NOTE: If you do not wish to wait for the pins, you can substitute with a 1/4" diameter door hinge pin purchased from a hardware store. The hinge pins can be cut to size using a hack saw, or more easily with a chain cutting tool. [Many hardware stores sell chain, and have a chain cutter next to the rolls of chain.] Note that the hinge pins used on the Meridian are actually 1/4" brass (or iron) rivets. These rivets are available from industrial supply companies.

To replace damaged or broken pin(s) perform the following steps:

1. Carefully remove door from stove. Always when lifting door be sure NOT to lift at an angle, that is, it should be lifted evenly so that no strain is placed on the door pin hole brackets.
2. Inspect the holes in the door frame (attached to the stove) and the pin holes in the door itself. There should be no obstructions. The diameter of these holes should be 9/32 of an inch in diameter. It is a good idea to re-drill these holes with a 9/32" drill to insure that the pins will easily slide into place.
3. After carefully re-drilling the holes, align the door with the door frame and insert the new pins.

## REPLACING THE INNER METAL COLLAR

This procedure should never be necessary, but may occur if you try to force the starter section of flue pipe into the stove, either during initial installation or at a later date when removing and then re-installing the pipe.

If the metal collar (which is cast into the neck of the stove during the manufacturing process) comes loose during the attaching of the heat exchanger or starter section of flue pipe, perform the following steps:

1. Remove the heat exchanger from the stove.
  2. Fit the collar snugly back into its original position.
  3. Replace the starter section (including the decorative cover [or decorative basket] and centering ring that sits on top of the neck of the stove). If the collar should come loose again in the process, just reposition it as snugly as possible AFTER all the flue pipe parts are properly positioned AND connected to the chimney and the stove. (Do not attempt to screw the starter section into the inner collar).
  4. Using a rubber glove or spatula, place CFC on the seam formed by the inside of the collar and the inside of the stove. (This is accomplished by kneeling on the hearth and reaching through the door of the stove). Also place the CFC on the seam formed by the collar and the stainless steel starter section of pipe.
- NOTE: If CFC is not available, use pre-mixed furnace cement.
5. Smooth out the CFC, but be careful not to over do it, or else the CFC will fall off. If this should happen, simply repack the CFC until a sufficient amount (about 1/2 inch) remains around the collar sealing it into place.
  6. You may use the stove immediately, however, be careful not to disturb the CFC.

NOTE: Be careful not to unnecessarily move the heat exchanger after placing the CFC in and around the collar and pipe. You should always be careful when removing and replacing the heat exchanger - the collar is only held in place by the CFC (it is not secured by any other means.)

## TIGHTENING THE DOOR FRAME

Only once have we encountered a loose door frame on any Meridian stove. This is not a problem that should arise, however, if it should occur it is very simple to fix and only takes several minutes.

To tighten the door frame (on the new-type stove, that is, the stoves with a 7" flue) perform the following steps:

1. Open the door and CAREFULLY remove it by gently lifting it. YOU MUST LIFT EVENLY -- be careful not to bend the hinge pins. If the door is too snug to be removed, then simply leave it in place -- DO NOT ATTEMPT to force it loose.

2. Looking into the stove, you will notice two humps of CFC near the upper part of the door frame. Carefully remove the CFC from these humps to expose a hex head bolt. Note: only remove enough CFC to expose the heads of the two bolts.

3. Holding the door frame snug to the stove (or as close as it will go), use a box wrench to tighten these two bolts.

NOTE: DO NOT over tighten. Tighten the bolts only until they are firmly seated -- in other words, DON'T brace yourself and strain to overtighten them.

4. Use CFC to recover the bolts. If no CFC is available, you can use ordinary pre-mixed furnace cement (or any commercially available 'Stove Patch') until you obtain the CFC.

The stove can be used immediately.

If your stove is one of the older models (which use an 8" flue), and has 3 bolts with nuts exposed on the flat, visible, surface of the door frame, then follow the same procedure above except for the following difference: When you remove the CFC as described in Step 2, you will notice a 1/4 x 20 bolt with a 1/4 x 20 nut attached. Use a box wrench and carefully tighten these two nuts.

To obtain additional information or guidance in tightening the door frame contact the manufacturer or your dealer.

## POLISHING THE DOOR

If your door is made of solid brass you may use any type of brass cleaner to clean the door. On the other hand, if your door is made of plated brass or nickle, DO NOT USE an abrasive cleaner. For all types of doors we recommend Flitz brand metal polish. This cleaner should be available from your local Meridian dealer.

## PAINTING THE FLUE PIPE AND DOOR

If you wish to repaint your flue pipe and/or door, request your dealer to obtain for you a can of special hi-temp heat paint that matches the color of your unit. Note that all painted doors on the Meridian are generally painted with black paint -- black hi-temp heat paint is available in many hardware and paint stores.

## CLEANING THE GLASS

Never clean the when it is hot -- always wait until the unit has cooled. Use a soft absorbent rag or paper towels and a spray cleaner. DO NOT use an abrasive cleaner. Be careful not to disturb the CFC which is holding the glass in place. ALSO, DO NOT put too much preasure on the glass when you are cleaning it.

## GLASS REPLACEMENT

In the unlikely event that you break the glass on your Meridian, contact the manufactuer or your dealer, or obtain the glass locally.

NOTE: Use only the following type of special ceramic high-temperature glass: SHR 1390 High Temperature Glass, 5mm x 330mm x 457mm. In addition, you will require the following parts: 3 pounds of CFC (or if unavailable, use pre-mixed furnace cement), and 2 each #8-32 x 1/2" thread cutting screws.

After obtaining the parts locally, directly from the manufacturer, or through your dealer, perform the following steps:

1. Remove the door from the frame by gently cradling the door and pulling up to remove it from the hinges. BE CAREFUL not to bend the hinge pins.
2. Place door face down on a soft surface and carefully remove the white caulking material (CFC) from the two side areas (opposite ends).

3. Remove the 2 screws which are holding the glass in place. These 2 screws are located beneath the CFC removed in Step 2.

4. You can now remove the remaining CFC and glass. BE CAREFUL not to cut yourself on the glass.

5. Place a bead of CFC around the door frame, and set the new glass into place, gently pressing it onto the CFC.

6. Now place the 2 screws in the holes provided and tighten.

7. Place CFC around and over the screws, and around the entire door. Use a wet putty knife to smooth out the CFC.

8. Clean excess CFC off the glass and wipe it clean.

9. The CFC will air dry slowly; however, this process can be quickened with heat. For example, you can place an electric hot plate in the stove to speed the drying process.

**REMEMBER:** Always close door slowly. DO NOT SLAM DOOR. Do not force the door shut against an extra large log. Always place the logs into the stove in such a way that while burning they will not roll onto the door.

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If you have any questions about these maintenance instructions, or any other questions about your Meridian Stove or Fireplace Insert, please contact your Meridian Dealer or call or write us directly. Our customer service department is always ready to serve you.

Your Meridian is the finest, hand-crafted, solid-fuel heater manufactured today. If used as directed, your Meridian will provide many years of warm, gentle heat, and will always remain one of your most cherished possessions.

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