



**CAST IRON AIR BRICK COMPANY**

Building Architectural Enhancements

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Specification Sheet – CiabCoal-2018

[www.castironairbricks.co.uk](http://www.castironairbricks.co.uk)

## **COAL HOLE COVERS and FRAMES**

### **Items COALCOVER - COALVENT**



Cast iron coal hole covers and frames are made from grey iron, cast in sand moulds bonded with resin to a fine cast finish and are available either solid or vented with or without the frame.

#### **Examples**

As well as supplying coal hole covers and vents for TV and movie sets at “Albert Square” for the BBC soap “Eastenders”, Shepperton Studios and Disney our more regular orders are for everyday replacements of worn or damaged units across the country. We’ve supplied coal hole covers from Tiverton in Devon to Lerwick in Shetland Islands and to Sussex, Manchester and Hexham but mostly

our customers are in London where we've supplied them in boroughs across the capital in Muswell Hill, Hatton Garden, Belgravia and Knightsbridge.

### **History**

There are a huge range of coal hole covers across the country as they've been installed in properties for around 100 years. They are nearly all round and were positioned outside a house to allow the coal merchant to drop either the coal loose or in sacks down the hatch and into the cellar below. They are mostly 12" diameter which is the optimum size for two key reasons namely, they were big enough to drop a sack of coal through but small enough for an adult (and potential thief) to drop down. That said, there are instances of 13" and also 14" diameter covers still in existence but these are so rare we don't have any patterns available for them.

The vented coal cover with slots in is most unusual. Although the slots allow for the basement and coal storage area to be vented they also allow rainwater in. They are therefore more than likely to have been installed inside external buildings rather than in the open in outhouses such as the wash house.

### **Installation**

Damaged or worn out coal hole covers are often simply replaced with our new covers by removing the old one and dropping ours into the existing frame that is still in the path or pavement. Before ordering it is worth checking we have the correct size for your coal hole so measure up first and possibly lift the cover to measure the frame. If you do have a coal cover larger than 12" it might be possible to drop a 12" frame into your 13" or 14" frame and then use our 12" cover. Please check our frame dimensions below. You can of course order just the frame from the website and try it out for yourself before committing to purchasing the cover and frame. We will accept returns on products for a refund less delivery that don't fit provided they are returned in a "sellable" condition.

### **Dimensions**

#### **Cover**

300mm cover diameter

245mm cover spigot diameter

Cover depth is 40mm

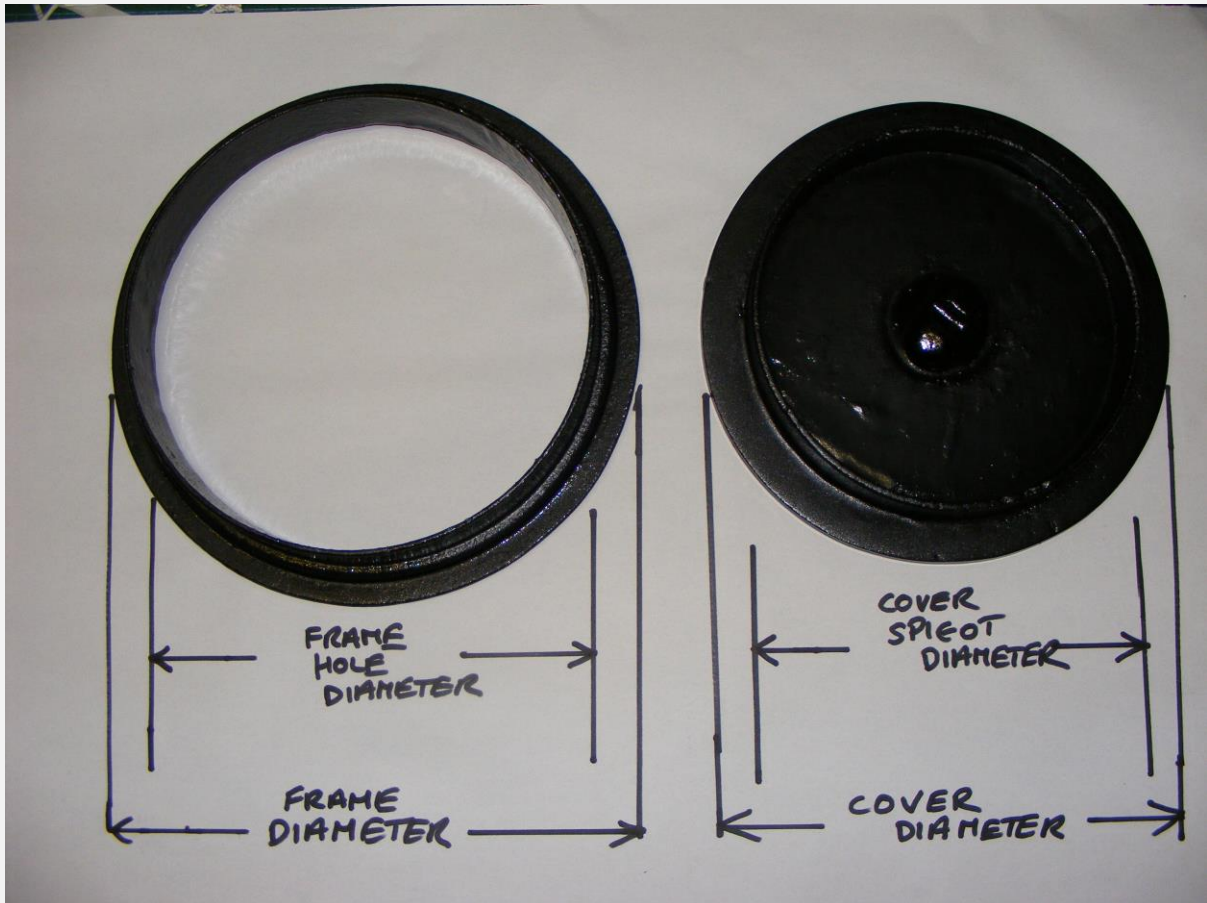
#### **Frame**

335mm frame diameter

273mm frame hole diameter

Frame depth is 55mm

**(see photo below for dimension explanations)**



### **Finish**

The Coal Hole Covers are supplied painted black. We can supply bespoke RAL painted covers to match customers' requirements but please note that items painted in such a way are nonreturnable, there is an additional charge for this and it will add 1-2 weeks onto the delivery time.

### **Environmental Benefits and Longevity**

Our coal hole covers are UK made and are expected to last a lifetime. We have been commissioning castings of coal holes for around ten years and make them in the traditional green sand method in the foundry in Scotland.

Cast iron is not affected by UV and is fire resistant and fully recyclable. The cast iron used in the manufacture of this product is sourced from scrap iron with the addition of a small amount of pig iron. On average, 95% of the casting is recycled material. The moulds used to create the castings are generated using sand that is packed in a box with one of our patterns and this sand is used again and again to create further castings.

Casting in the UK has ensured all our products are made to strict emission and pollution levels in accordance with the latest legislation and that the workers creating these products are fairly paid and have a safe working environment in which to earn a living.

Melting iron requires a substantial amount of energy from either gas or electricity and to offset the CO2 emissions from this process we have planted over 300 trees in our own 3 acre wood. The annual absorption of CO2 from our wood is enough to ensure the production of our castings is carbon neutral.

As we don't import any of our products, the mileage from foundry to our finishing workshop and distribution bay in North Devon is very low keeping our carbon footprint small and once installed we expect this air brick to last a life time.

### **Maintenance**

The gloss paint will dull over time and is likely to dull to a satin sheen in a year or two. After a decade or so they may start to rust if the paint has worn but this rust forms a protective layer to prevent further corrosion. We use a three part epoxy primer followed by two part epoxy black gloss top coat which is extremely hard wearing. If they are used as part of pavement or walkway they are going to get scratched and or exposed to salt so may need repainting at some point.

### **Notes for architects**

The Coal Hole Covers are very much a window to the past and instantly recognisable in pavements and on the paths leading to Victorian properties. There is virtually no requirement to install them in new builds or in places where they aren't already in existence except for aesthetic reasons. It is possible to use them to create period features in floors, walkways, bars and restaurants and along shopping arcades. In the event of using them in these instances as "dummy coal holes" we suggest, once the frame is installed in the floor/path that a bead of clear silicon is applied in a ring on the frame and the cover then dropped into the frame to secure it in place. This will prevent any "going missing" as there are no screw holes to secure them in position.

There have been numerous inventions over the years to design a contraption with levers to allow a lockable cast iron coal cover but, although ingenious, they require regular oiling through their life time and have all failed and either eventually seized or broken. We have seen such a thing but the concept of house holders regularly oiling and maintaining below ground cast iron grille locking mechanisms makes its reintroduction unthinkable. If customers want to permanently lock the covers to the frame then using silicon (sandwiched underneath between cover and frame so it isn't visible) is the simplest solution.

**SPECIFICATION TABLE – COAL HOLE**

Item Code	Nom. Diameter (Inch)	Diameter in mm	Weight (KG)	Free Area	Plate Thickness (mm)
COALCOVER	12	300	6.5	Na	7
COALVENT	12	300	5.5	9000	7

**Material – Grey cast iron 250**

**British Made Product**

Cast iron foundry source –made in Scotland



For more details please see our website...

<https://www.castironairbricks.co.uk/product-category/coal-hole-covers/>

Alternatively email or call us

[Sales@castironairbricks.co.uk](mailto:Sales@castironairbricks.co.uk)

01598 711999

Delivery for this product is normally from stock for low volume orders and these are sent out the next working day for orders received before 12 o'clock. Ideally we hold 10 units unfinished and 2 units painted black of each type of cover. If we need to paint more black this will be 5-7 days longer, bespoke painted fronts (customer supplied RAL) are typically 10-14 days

Cast Iron Air Brick Company, Down Farm, Brayford, EX32 7QQ



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