

INSTALLATION GUIDELINES

1. Determine material requirements

- Measure the entire wall area and subtract the number of openings from the total measurement.
- Measure the entire linear footage of outside corner that you will need.
- Subtract half of the amount of linear feet you found from the total square footage less openings to give you the amount of flat material you will require.
- Measure the linear footage of sill you might also require.
- Your local distributor will then be able to use these measurements to determine the amount of other installation material you may require including paper, wire, starter strips and mortar required.

2. Wall Preparation

- In many cases, our stone products can be applied directly to clean concrete surfaces. For all wood and gypsum applications, at minimum two layers of 60 minute tar paper should be installed. It is recommended that a 10mm drainage cavity be present behind the stone veneer but in many jurisdictions, may not be required. Local building codes should be observed and followed.
- Once your vapor/weather barrier is installed, you can mechanically fasten #2.5 expanded metal lath to the surface along with any starter strips (Plaster stop with drainage holes is commonly used.) The type of fastener used will depend on the substrate being it is being applied to. For most wood applications 1 1/4" roofing nails are acceptable. Be sure to hit as many studs as possible. Metal stud application may require the use of self taping screws.
- Once the lath is attached to the wall a scratch coat should be applied to cover the lath using type N or S mortar. Pre blended products such as Spec-Mix should be available through your distributor. In some instances you may want to tint your scratch coat to reduce the visibility of gapping. Once the scratch coat has been applied and is still pliable, scrape horizontal grooves into it by using a broom or scarifier. This creates "teeth" that will help the bond coat of mortar adhere better to the surface.

3. Preparing your laying mortar

- Prepare your mortar mix for bonding the veneer to the scratch coat by using a polymer modified stone veneer mortar. These mortars have synthetic additives that help in the bonding of the mortar. Thoroughly mix your mortar according to the manufacturer instructions, let your initial mix stand for 5 minutes and then remix prior to application. The mortar should not be so wet that it drips off the lath or falls off the trowel and not so dry that it does not stick to the stone or lumps off the trowel.

4. Applying The Stone To The Scratch Coat

- Using a trowel, "butter" the back of each piece of stone before applying an additional 1/2" thick layer of mortar onto the back of the stone. Firmly press and wiggle the stone onto the scratch coat in the desired location. The best strategy is to start on an outside wall corner at the bottom and work your way up and away from the corner. The texture of mortar should be paste like, and wet enough so that you can do minor adjustment to the piece and level it before the mortar initially sets.
- It is best to be as clean as possible and not get the mortar on the face of the stone. It is generally advised to tint the color of your bonding mortar to the same general color of the stone to minimize the appearance of mortar drops or stains on the stone and to fill in any small gaps you may find between the stones. If you get mortar on the face of the product during installation, it is usually best to wait long enough so it hardens slightly and can be brushed away.

5. Grouting

- Many common stone veneer products require grouting after the initial stone has been laid. When installing this type of stone, it is best to leave a grout joint that is 1/2" thick between the stones. You will fill these joints with the same mortar that was used during the scratch coat stage and that is either a natural color or tinted to your liking. It is recommended to stay away from grouting with polymer modified mortars.
- You will utilize a grout bag for this application and a small 1/2" grout tool or "slicker". Fill the bag with mortar and squeeze it while moving the nozzle along the joint. Joint depths should be uniform. When the mortar mix starts to dry, use a pointing tool to pack the mortar into the joints and then brush the joints to leave a more clean look.

6. Cleaning and sealing

- If any clean up is required on the stone, you may use a mixture of vinegar and water and small bristle brush to clean away any excess dirt or mortar residue on the face of the veneer. It is important to clean the stone prior to the mortar fully drying on the stone.
- Although not required, you may wish to add a sealer to the surface of the stone and re-seal it every few years. This may make the stone easier to clean. Depending on the sealer that is chosen, it may also enhance the colors within the stone. If you wish to seal the product as a simple maintenance step, we recommend using a matte sealer.

GENERAL TIPS, TRICK, AND QUESTIONS

- When mixing mortar, use a 5 gallon pail and only enough product that you will use in approximately 30 minutes. This will be about 1/2 a bucket.
- Unless using a neutral color stone, always tint your bonding mortar to a similar color to the stone. This will allow you to hide minor imperfections, gaps, and cut sides during the installation and lessen the amount of time spent doing this later.
- We recommend using a 2" x 4"-6" margin trowel when installing the stone and a 4"-5" x 14"-18" finishing trowel when applying the scratch coat.
- Always keep a small water bottle on hand. You may need to add small amounts of water to your bonding mortar so that it remains pliable throughout the application. The main reason for a stone falling off of the wall is due to the mortar being too dry at application.

GENERALLY REQUIRED TOOLS

- 5 Gallon Pail
- 12"-14" Flat or Notched Trowel
- 2" Margin Trowel
- Paddle Mixer
- Extension Cords
- 10"-14" Miter Saw with segmented diamond blade
- Hammer Tacker
- Roofing Nail or Stapler for attaching lath
- Tin Snips
- 2' & 4' Level
- Grout Bags
- 1/4" - 1/2" Tooler
- PPE (Gloves, hearing protection, face mask)
- Stiff bristle brush



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CRAFTED STONE VENEER