

CLADDING MASTERGUIDE

Professional installation recommended

For best results, we would strongly recommend that a skilled Tiler or Stone Mason installs Stone Source's cladding products.

You and/or your tradesperson are also welcome to visit our showroom to see examples of finished walls.

Installing Stone Source Cladding

Once ready to start installing the stone ensure that you open all the pallets and taking into consideration that you should have ordered about 15% extra (this would be to enable you to make your final selection easier by removing shapes and colours for waste cutting or complete removal). Ensure that you inter mix the crates/pallets and also the layers. **DO NOT WORK FROM JUST ONE LAYER/PALLET AT A TIME.**

Ensure the front and rear of each piece is free of dust, dirt, sand, or loose particles. When necessary, wash them completely. They can be power washed but keep the nozzle at least 300mm from the face.

Never use Acid cleaning Agents to clean the face of the stone.

In the event that cleaning agents are needed, please select a natural detergent that is non-corrosive and non-acidic to remove build-up in problem areas. Always test before using.

When installing, certain materials need to be dampened to the back (especially in a hot environment) This prevents the panel from pulling the moisture from the adhesive,

allowing it to cure naturally and with a stronger bond.

Select a tile adhesive that meets or exceeds local building regulations and mix per the manufacturer's instructions. We strongly recommend at the very least the equal of Laticrete MVIS Masonry Veneer Mortar or Ardex X77.

When fixing the stone it is essential that the substrate and all parts of the back of the stone are covered to a compressed total maximum bedding thickness of not more than 18mm.

You may need to fix a baton near the base so to take the weight until the adhesive has dried.

Apply adhesive onto the receiving substrate using a 6 mm x 9 mm or 12 mm x 12 mm notched trowel. Back butter using the straight-edge of the trowel to key a thin coat of the adhesive covering the entire back of the veneer units to provide full bedding of the veneer. Place & press the cladding into the notched mortar bed and adjust to desired position. Clean any excess mortar on sides of stone or tile veneer.

It is important to use a notched trowel to spread the tile adhesive on to the wall.

Applying the adhesive to both the back of each stone and the wall ensures the maximum possible adhesion to your wall surface, making sure that all gaps, voids and cracks are filled.

Press each stone into the adhesive, rotating slightly, forcing some of the adhesive to squeeze out freely. Any adhesive forced out beyond the finished joint or on the panel surface itself must be promptly removed before the adhesive is allowed to set. Tight joints will provide a neat appearance. Be sure not to allow any adhesive to harden on the face of the panels as this will hinder the clean-up process.

If there is to be pointing between the stone then use a semi hard foam which you can cut into squares so to keep a uniform distance

between each stone and making it easier to remove the spacers later due to its flexibility.

Tools and materials needed

[1] For cutting and modifying Stone Source Cladding, a wet saw with a continuous rim diamond blade is required and should tilt if mitre cuts are necessary; these are usually available for hire on a daily basis from large equipment hire firms in your area. Please note that in most cases we supply "L" shape corners so no mitre requires to be cut.

[2] An angle grinder may be used to notch the back of the rock panels to fit around small protrusions in the wall such as pipes, steelwork etc.

[3] Notched steel trowel

[4] scraper

[5] stiff wire brush

[6] masonry brush

[7] large sponge

Preparing your substrate for installation

Stone Source Cladding weigh up to approximately 90kg m² therefore it is critical that they are fixed to an appropriate substrate to ensure a successful installation. Stone Source Cladding may be applied over any masonry surface, standard concrete block, brick, cement, etc. Painted surfaces must be sandblasted or otherwise stripped of paint. If a new wall needs to be built of a thinner and lighter substrate then Hardie Backerboard (6 or 12mm) for internal walls, Hardie does supply an Exterior tongue and grooved exterior grade board. Knauf Aqua Exterior Boarding could also be used for external walls.

Please consult your building authority with any specific questions relating to the local building codes.

Installing over open stud walls

Stone Source Cladding can be installed over open stud walls using Hardie Backerboard (see above).

Installing over standard concrete block, brick or concrete

First ensure that the surface is clean and free of any foreign agents, including paint that may interfere with the bond between stone and substrate. If the substrate is uneven or not plumb then this should be rectified before proceeding.

****Special note for pre-fabricated concrete tilt up construction – all release agents must be removed from concrete surfaces prior to Stone Source Cladding installation.**

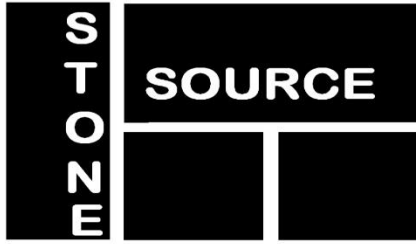
During the installation of Stone Source cladding, it's very important to wash down as you work, the adhesive can fall onto the face of stone work below as its being trowelled onto the wall above and also finger marks of adhesive can be left on the face of the stone as you handle the product which can lead to unsightly marks when dry.

While the adhesive is still wet use a wet sponge to dampen the adhesive on the face of the stone then use a stiff scrubbing brush to remove the adhesive followed by another rinse with the sponge using clean water.

Weather conditions

When installing externally the correct protection should be taken to cover the installed wall with Tarpaulins or temporary shelters from the rain. If the weather is hot, then damp hessian sacking/sheets should used to cover the stone walls thus allowing the adhesive to set slower.

Please read and adhere to the adhesive Suppliers recommendations regarding adverse weather conditions.



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