

Stone Veneer Installation

Step by step stone veneer instructions, along with our stones lightweight composition, makes for simple installation. Begin with a structurally sound, unpainted, unsealed, untreated, clean surface. Please contact *ImperialSTONE*® with any technical questions.

Applying Stone Veneer To Existing Wood/Wood-Type Construction

•Interior Use: Cover area with 2.5 galvanized wire lath, nailed horizontally with 1" & 3" galvanized nails across wall every 6" on center into the studs. The diamonds in the lath form a pocket to retain the mortar mix. Smooth side down, rough side up. Make sure lath is flat against the wall. Trim excess lath with wire snips. Now, see "Scratch Coat."



•Exterior Use: Refer to "APPLYING THE STONES." Cover substrate with 15 # felt paper, then attach 2.5 galvanized wire lath (or use paperbacked 2.5 galvanized wire lath, (WATER PENETRATION TO SUBSTRATE CAN CAUSE DAMAGE) overlapping 2" on horizontal joints, 6" on vertical joints. Repeat exact procedures in step (a. Interior Use) now, see "Scratch Coat." This stone should not be assumed to add strength to load bearing capacity. This veneer is for aesthetic purposes. Stone should be installed a minimum of 4" above finished grade. Stone should not be used in below-water applications such as swimming pool liners or in areas vulnerable to slush formed by salt or chemicals used to melt ice or snow. We do not recommend our stone for flooring or driveway uses.



Applying Stone Veneer To Masonry

•Stone may be applied directly to a clean masonry wall. Painted or sealed surfaces must first be cleaned by sand blasting to form an adhesion for the mortar mix, or by attaching metal lath with 1" masonry nails, then repeating steps in (a. Interior Use) prior to installing stone. Now, see "Scratch Coat."

Applying Stone Veneer To Metal Studs

•Stone may be applied to metal studs of 18 gauge minimum. Repeat exact procedures in steps (a. Interior Use) and (b. Exterior Use) installing 15 # felt paper (or paper backed 2.5 galvanized lath) and 2.5 galvanized lath with # 8 self-tapping metal screws. Make sure screws penetrate the studs no less than 1/4". Now, see "Scratch Coat."

Mixing/Applying "Scratch Coat"

•Mix one bag Portland Type 1, Type S or Type N mortar add sand per manufacturers instructions. (Average 3 bags mortar mix per pallet of stone.) Add water, blending to a creamy paste-like consistency, yielding enough to install a minimum of 90 feet of stone. All tightly secured wire lath should be completely covered by using a stainless steel trowel with 1/2" – 3/4" thickness of mortar mix. Once cured, the rigid backing ensures bondage of the stone veneer of your choice.

Read and understand all the installation instructions before you begin!

Applying The Stones

•Apply stone to a workable area so mortar does not set up before the stone is applied. If you are using corner stones, these stones should always be applied first. Remaining stones are applied bottom up, or top down. In hot/dry weather, spray a fine mist of clean water on to the back of the stone to prevent water absorption from the mortar mix. In cold weather, temperatures should be 40 and rising. Trowel a thin layer of mortar mix on to the back of the stone. Position and embed the stone on to the surface in a tight uniform pattern. For a natural look, joints should not exceed 1" in width. Press the stone firmly, wiggling it to ensure bondage. Proper embedding will force the mortar mix to squeeze out around the edges. A correct consistency of the mortar mix will allow the stone to stay in place while the mortar mix cures. Wipe wet mortar mix from the stone front with a wet sponge.



•Grouting Compound/Fill Joints Use 1 bag of masonry mix and sand per manufacturers instructions. Color can be added to the grout with iron oxide pigments if desired. Fill grout bag with approximately 2 quarts of paste. Squeeze paste and fill all joint areas between stones. Do not allow paste to dry. Wipe with wet sponge. Never use acid, a wire brush or pressure washer, to clean stone veneer. Stone can be cleaned with granulated soap/detergent. Rinse thoroughly.

Finished Joints

•As mortar joints cure and become firm, use a wooden or metal striking tool to remove excess mortar and level the grout in the joints. Fill in holes, gaps and openings.

Sealing Stone

•Sealing stone is optional and usually unnecessary. Sealing the stone will darken the stone color and add a gloss. You can test the color by applying water to the stone to give you a view of what sealing your stone may look like. Sealing can be accomplished with masonry sealer. Allow stone veneer wall to cure, then, follow masonry sealer manufacturers' instructions.

*Imperial*STONE® is made in the U.S.A.

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