



Elite Stone Products

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Installation Guide

Disclaimer: These instructions are provided to assist in the installation of Elite Stone product(s). These instructions will not necessarily apply to every design circumstance that you encounter. These instructions may, and most likely will, require modifications to meet your particular design requirements. Manufacturer accepts no responsibility or liability for the use of these or other instructions.

- 1. Surface Preparation** Elite Stone can be applied to any structurally sound surface. Due to its light weight, no special foundations or structural alterations are necessary. On clean (unpainted, untreated, unsealed) brick, block, concrete or other masonry surfaces, install stone directly to surface. On all other surfaces, lath must be applied first. Nail or staple the lath approximately every six inches, hitting studs where possible. Lath should overlap approximately 3 inches on all sides. On metal buildings, attach the lath with a drill and self-tapping screws. Outside, on wood surfaces, apply a vapor barrier such as black paper or roofing felt before attaching the lath. Mix a batch of pre-mix mortar cement and use a serrated edged trowel to apply an even layer approximately 3/8" thick over the lath. Be sure the mortar is mixed thin enough to penetrate the lath. Allow scratch coat to dry for at least 12 hours before applying stone. Note Elite Stone Products and their dealers can provide you with Spider Lath mesh which is more user friendly than the traditional metal lath. It is also a superior product in that it has gaskets to seal all your fastener punctures.

- 2. Work Area Preparation** If you are inside or working over a stainable surface, use a non-slippery material to cover the floor or work area, such as black roofing paper or contractor paper. This will keep mortar from sticking to your work area. You are now ready to stock your work area with stone. If you are working with more than one pallet of stone be sure to pull stone from different pallets to give you a good mix of color.

3. Mortar Preparation Use pre-mixed stone veneer masonry cement to apply the stone. The mix consistency of the mortar when applied should stay in place, (more wet than dry).

4. Mortar Placement Stone placement should start at a straight edge, such as window, door, corner, etc. In warm weather masonry surfaces may need to be dampened prior to installing the stone so that the moisture will not be drawn from the mortar too rapidly. Spread about a one inch layer of mortar on the back of the rock

5. Stone Application Press the mortared stone firmly into place with a twisting motion. If the stone should fall off when you let it go, your mortar is either too wet or too dry. Scrape off excess mortar before continuing with the next stone.

6. Dressing Joints (*Grout lines are optional. If you are dry-stacking your stone, you can ignore this step.*) Dressing the joints is one of the most critical steps in stone application; it's also one of the slowest. If the joints are unattractive, the whole job will look bad. After joints begin to harden, (about 50% dry), fill in the shallow spots and smooth the joints with a metal or wood jointing tool. A 6" x 3/4" x 1/4" strip from a 1 x 4 piece of lumber makes a simple jointing tool. Be sure to keep the ends squared off by cutting them every-so-often, (this will keep the mortar joints more even and level). If the joint dressing process is done before the joint mortar is dry enough it will smear and dirty the stone. If this is done when the mortar is too dry it will be very difficult.

7. Brushing Brush the mortar joints with a whiskbroom to smooth them and clean away the loose mortar. Clean off any mortar spots from the face of the stone with a wet rag. Loose mortar and mortar spots that have set for only a few hours clean up easily and should never be allowed to setup overnight

8. Cleanup Be careful not to leave mortar on any surface. If the surface is properly protected during the application, cleanup will be much easier. After the mortar sets for 24 hours, wash the job with a water hose to eliminate excess dust. Acid, chemicals, or pressure washing are not recommended for cleaning the stone.