

GUIDELINES FOR NATURAL STONE VENEER INSTALLATIONS

Laguna Stone ® can be installed to any structurally sound surface. Although it is real stone, it is light weight due to the thinness of the material.

On a clean (unpainted, untreated) masonry surface, apply stone directly to the surface. On any other surface, use metal lath.

For exterior applications, first apply a vapor barrier and use only galvanized metal.

Before installing the stone, apply a thin scratch coat of mortar to lath and allow the mortar to set. It is a must to use a standard mortar mix of good working consistency.

If you want added bonding strength use an admixture such acryl 60 by Thoro.

We suggest that before applying the stone, to lay stone flat on the floor and see how it looks, making also easier to find size and color of each piece of stone.

After your layout is ready, pick the stone and butter the back with ½" to ¾" of mortar and then press stone firmly into place, wiggling the stone to assure a good bond.

In hot or warm weather, it is convenient to dampen the masonry surface or scratch coat prior to stone installation.

Begin at the bottom of the wall and tag to keep joints at consistent height and width.

If required, stone may be cut with a dry or wet cut diamond or masonry blade.

If possible, do not let mortar come in contact with the face of the stone when filling joints.

When mortar joints become firm use a striking tool to rake excess mortar from joints.

Use a whisk broom to brush joints and to clean away loose mortar. Do not use acid to clean excess mortar from stone.

Stone must always be applied according to local building codes.

CORRECT SURFACE PREPARATION

1. **Over Sheetrock**, Wallboard, Plywood Paneling or other rigid wood related sheathing.
Cover the wall surface with a weather-resistant barrier. The building paper or felt shall be applied horizontally with the upper layer lapped over the lower layer a minimum of 2 inches. In vertical joints the felt shall be lapped a minimum of 6 inches. Afterwards, install a 2.5 Lb diamond mesh or lath. Exterior applications require a galvanized metal lath. Overlap lath sides at least ½" and lath ends a minimum of 1". The lath should be applied using galvanized nails or staples 6" on center vertically and 16" on center horizontally, penetrating the studs a minimum of 1". Then, apply a ½" thick scratch coat of mortar over the lath and allow it to set.
2. **Over open studs.**
Install paper-backed galvanized metal lath to the studs, using galvanized nails or staples every 6" vertically on stud centers, with at least 1" penetrations.
Overlap lath sides and ends by not less than 1".
For metal studs use self-tapping screws with a 3/8" inside the stud. Apply a ½" scratch coat of mortar over the lath and allow to dry 48 hours.
3. **Over metal panels.**
The surface preparation is the same as for "over sheetrock" but the metal lath should be installed using self-tapping screws with a 3/8" head and a minimum penetration of 3/8" inside the metal.
4. Over clean (unpainted, unsealed, untreated) Block, Brick, Concrete or other masonry products.
Although no surface preparation is required, newly poured concrete surfaces should be examined to assure that the surface contains no release oils. If the surface has oil, etch surface with muriatic acid and rinse thoroughly and score with a wire brush.
5. **Over sealed**, painted or treated masonry surfaces.
There are two options:
 - a) Clean the surface by sandblasting, acid etching or wire brushing.
 - b) Install metal lath using concrete nails and apply a scratch coat over the lath.