

STONE PRODUCT SPECIFICATION

FREE FORM

INSTALLATION TIPS

Please note these tips are guides only and should be used in addition to the relevant Australian Standards for trade practices. Note that installation may vary from site to site with conditions specific to that site. The contractor should decide if these suggestions are suitable for their application or require further adjustment. These tips are given in good faith and to the best of our knowledge and experience at the time of printing. In no way do these tips replace the services of professional contractors and/or consultants.

Some typical installation methods are:

SUBSTRATE/WALL

The background structure must be structurally sound and suitable for the stone installation. This may require an engineer's structural certification.

For concrete/blockwork/brickwork walls, the surface must be even and true, with a variance of no more than 2mm every 4m. If the wall is not true, a render should be applied as per the manufacturer's recommendations. The surface should be free from movement, oils, grease, waxes, paints, curing compounds and any other loose contaminating materials.

New concrete must be allowed to cure for 6 weeks, should have a wood float finish and be free of any laitance.

Old concrete should be cleaned of all laitance and have a keyable surface.

For tilt-up concrete panels, it is vital that all residues from release agents etc are removed from the panel prior to the application of any tile adhesive.

The addition of a shelf, pin or tie back system may be necessary. If unsure, contact an engineer for advice.

CONTROL JOINTS

Control joints should be used in the following areas:

1. Over movement joints in the background and over weakened plane joints.
2. At a junction between different background materials.
3. At fixtures interrupting the stone surface eg. columns and beams.
4. At internal vertical corners.
5. At all horizontal joints and vertical joints (Apx 3m to 4.5m apart).

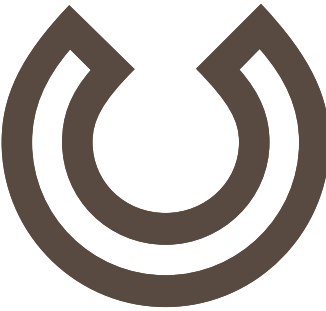
RENDER

All render should be liquid modified and bonded as per the manufacturer's instructions.

The render should be true, to a tolerance of +/-2mm in 4m. It is essential to have a keyable finish.

The render should be finished no thicker than 20mm and no single coat should be less than 8mm or more than 16mm.

Render should be allowed to fully cure before the application of stone.



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WATERPROOFING

The application of a waterproof membrane is recommended for areas that are prone to efflorescence or in continuous contact with water. Please refer to relevant Australian standards.

It is strongly recommended that the top course is always sealed (silicon/polyurethane) or capped to prevent moisture entering between the stone and the substrate.

ADHESIVE

There are various suitable adhesives on the market, including fast setting types if required. It is essential to follow manufacturer's instructions.

APPLICATION

1. The back of the stone should be clean and free of dust and other contaminants.
2. Spread the adhesive using a 10mm x 10mm to 12mm x 12mm notched trowel, making sure there is at least a 2mm final bed thickness and full coverage of the stone surface.
3. Each stone should be fully back buttered before attempting adherence.
4. The adhesive should not be allowed to skin prior to bedding of the stone. Work within controlled areas, to ensure the stone is applied promptly to the adhesive bed (refer to manufacturer's specifications).
5. To ensure that full coverage is being maintained, a sample stone piece should be removed, the adhesive coverage noted and the stone re-laid accordingly.
6. Sponge off any residual tile adhesive immediately.
7. Once stone pieces are laid, they must not be disturbed for at least 24 hours.
8. Care should be taken to ensure that vertical progression is appropriate (ie. Don't install too high, too quickly).
9. The addition of a shelf, pin or tie back system may be necessary. If unsure, contact an engineer for advice.
10. Depending on the style of stone to be installed there are numerous techniques which can be used to achieve a certain look. Where a grout joint or coursing is desired, use tapered wedges or pre-soaked timber spacers. Ensure these are removed once the tile adhesive has set, but is not yet fully cured.
11. Please pay special attention to corner details, ensuring that the stone is never seen 'floating' on a wall. Corner pieces are made for most stone styles.
12. If grouting is required, please use a suitable pre-mixed coloured grout.



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SELECTION OF PRODUCT - VARIATION IN COLOUR

Given stone is a natural product variations in colour are an inherent characteristic of the product. We suggest sourcing tiles from all pallets delivered whilst installing. This will enhance the natural look of the product and the overall effect of the area that has been installed.

SEALING

A penetrating spirit based sealer can be applied. For sandstone, we recommend you pre-seal prior to installation and then re-seal prior to grouting. If stone is continually wet or installed in areas prone to salt attack, we recommend stone is dip sealed (sealed on all sides) prior to installation.

ALWAYS CONSULT AN ENGINEER WHEN UNSURE

ACCEPTABLE CHARACTERISTICS

Stone tiles are made from naturally occurring materials and a variation in colour and/or surface finish may occur. It is the responsibility of the user to inspect tiles prior to laying. Minor marks and small chipping are not structural and therefore not considered defects. Any tile with excessive chipping or variation in thickness and dimension prior to laying, may be subject to a warranty claim.