

REALSTONE

THIN STONE VENEER - INSTALLATION GUIDELINES

Installation

Installation of Thin Stone Veneer is quick, simple and easy. Simply apply the proper adhesive to the back of the sheet with the recommended 3/16" V-notched trowel and mount the sheet into place. Starting in the center of the sheet, using a roller or hand pressure, work any trapped air out towards the edge of the sheet. After adhesive has cured, you may finish the edges with any grout or trim pieces to match or accent the given decor.

Flexibility

Thin Stone Veneer can be used in many of the same applications as other thin laminate products are used. It will bend to a minimum 6 to 8" radius depending on the stone color or type. With the assistance of heat, smaller radii can be achieved. Testing should always be done prior to any installation. Thin Stone Veneer sheets can be bent inward or outward to meet a given look or architecture. Fiberglass strand is used in the makeup of the Thin Stone Veneer sheet, which gives it superior strength and flexibility.

Sealers

It is best to pre-seal Natural Thin Stone Veneer sheets prior to installation. This protects and seals the face from adhesives and grouts during installation and handling. Natural Thin Stone Veneer can be sealed with the same sealers used for slate, stone tiles, and wood. There are many sealers in the market with various recommended applications. Please test any sealer for the desired luster and penetration required prior to installation.

Preparation

Before application it may be necessary to clean, brush, or degrease any surface of dust or oils. In some installations, depending on the adhesive used, it may be necessary to prep the back of the Thin Stone Veneer by sanding or scuffing. Some adhesives may require the use of solvents or recommended primer by the adhesive manufacturer.

Layout & Patterns

Preparation of the area to be covered and the layout of the Thin Stone Veneer sheets is the same as for Natural Thin Stone or tile. Time spent preparing the work area will pay off immensely. A preliminary dry fit of Natural Thin Stone Veneer allows for arrangements and orientation of individual sheets, patterns, textures, and colors before final placement. It is recommended that each sheet be dry fit exactly where it will be placed on horizontal or vertical surfaces. Numbering the sheets to track relocation before cutting and trimming is recommended and will save time.

Cutting

Cutting straight lines and curves is best done using long nosed tin snips. Natural Thin Stone Veneer can also be cut with a metal shear, strong scissors, wet saw, or table saw with carbide blade.

Adhesives

A polyurethane construction adhesive should be adequate for most applications – interior and exterior. Contact adhesives are not recommended. Complete coverage of the veneer backing is necessary for a secure bond (refer to adhesive instructions).

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Hand Rollers

A hand roller is recommended to remove air between the Natural Thin Stone Veneer and substrate. To properly roll out trapped air, start in the middle of a sheet while firmly rolling to the edge. Do not press too hard while rolling as this may cause back-filled areas to push adhesive out and leave an air void. Proper pre-back-filling and using good rolling techniques will result in a solid, hard surface.

Trowels

For best results of adhesive to substrate, a 3/16" notched trowel is recommended. Use a straight trowel for back-filling of voids. Any bumps in the back surface should be sanded flat prior to back-filling. The back of Natural Thin Stone Veneer may require a filler type adhesive to backfill or level out voids of the Natural Thin Stone. It is always best to back-fill or back-butter voids or depressions in the material before application to a substrate.

Tiling, Grouting & Joining

Natural Thin Stone Veneer can be used to create a tiled effect by leaving a grout joint between cut pieces. Sheets may also be butt-jointed for the look of a smaller seam. Due to the thin nature of Natural Thin Stone Veneer a 1/8" to 3/16" grout joint will produce better results.

Chem-Calk 916 One Component Non-Sag Textured Polyurethane Sealant is available in many colors that compliment the veneer making it easy to match and fill the seams.

Grouts are also available in several colors to match the existing décor. If desired a deeper grout joint can be achieved by removing material just under the grout joint area with a scrapper tool. Modified grout and caulking grout can also be used.

Substrate

In some indoor and most outdoor applications expansion and contraction must be equal to prevent delamination. A flexible adhesive may be considered in this case. Concrete and masonry substrates must be at least 28 days old. Hydrostatic pressure conditions and vapor transmission cannot exceed 3 lbs. per **1,000 sq. ft. (1,36 kg per 92,9 m²)** per 24 hours using a calcium chloride test, and retained moisture should be less than 2.5%.

Composition & Variations

Natural Thin Stone Veneer is laminated to a fiberglass, and polyester resin substrate. Since Thin Stone Veneer is Natural Stone, color and texture variances are not defects within the material, but are inherent to it and part of the natural beauty of quarried materials. Natural Thin Stone Veneer cannot be guarantee to match dye-lot to dye-lot, so it is recommended that orders take into account future maintenance or re-fit possibilities.

UV & Temperature

The stone surface of Natural Thin Stone Veneer, like most stone elements, acts as a UV inhibitor and will resist high sun conditions for years. When adhered to a substrate, Natural Thin Stone Veneer will handle thermal contraction and or expansion of most standard construction materials. Natural Thin Stone Veneer will handle both high temperatures and freezing without cracking.

Precautions

Precautions must be taken when working with **Thin Stone Veneer** due to the fiberglass composition in the backing materials. ALWAYS use the proper gloves, goggles, and dust mask when working with Thin Stone Veneer. Industry standards recommend a, **NIOSH/MSHA** approved respirator for this type of material. When using a saw, ALWAYS be sure to take proper precaution to cover skin and eyes from fiberglass dust. When cutting Thin Stone Veneer with saws, grinders, or sanders, ALWAYS properly filter and exhaust equipment.

Safety

AVOID BREATHING SILICA DUST. This product when cut, drilled, or abraded produces dust containing Free Silica which may cause cancer or delayed lung injury (Silicosis) if inhaled. Work in a well ventilated area. Please wear safety glass and a dust mask.

For more information - Please contact:

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REALSTONE VENEER and REALSTONE TRANSLUCENT VENEER Limited Warranty

REALSTONE Thin Stone Veneer products are warranted to be free from defects in materials and workmanship. Any such defects must be reported to Aspen Industries Inc., within fifteen (15) days of date of delivery. During this warranty period Aspen will repair, or at its discretion, replace free of charge, such merchandise as shall prove to be defective. THIS WARRANTY DOES NOT APPLY TO DAMAGE RESULTING FROM SHIPPING, ACCIDENT, ALTERATION, MISUSE, TAMPERING, NEGLIGENCE, IMPROPER INSTALLATION OR ABUSE. INCIDENTAL AND CONSEQUENTIAL DAMAGES ARE SPECIFICALLY DISCLAIMED. ALL OTHER WARRANTIES (INCLUDING ANY WARRANTY OF MERCHANTABILITY OF FITNESS FOR ANY PARTICULAR PURPOSE) ARE HEREBY EXCLUDED. THE FOREGOING SHALL CONSTITUTE THE SOLE REMEDY OF THE CUSTOMER. No cost for labor or installation will be reimbursed.

Concrete and masonry substrates must be at least 28 days old. Hydrostatic pressure conditions and vapor transmission cannot exceed 3 lbs. per 1,000 sq. ft. (1,36 kg per 92,9 m²) per 24 hours using a calcium chloride test (reference ASTM).

Important: Before using, user shall determine the suitability of the product for its intended use and user alone assumes all risks and liability whatsoever in connection therewith. ANY CLAIM SHALL BE DEEMED WAIVED UNLESS MADE IN WRITING TO US WITHIN FIFTEEN (15) DAYS FROM DATE IT WAS, OR REASONABLY SHOULD HAVE BEEN, DISCOVERED.

There are no guarantees or warranties, expressed or implied, beyond the terms of this expressed written warranty.