



# **STONE VENEER**

**INSTALLATION & MAINTENANCE**



**[WWW.EARTHANATOMY.CO.UK](http://WWW.EARTHANATOMY.CO.UK)**

## WHAT TO HAVE READY

Adhesive	Serrated Trowel	Stone Sealant
Sandpaper	Dry cloths	Stone Cleaner
Cutting tools	Tape measure	Spirit level

## PREPARATION

1

We recommend that you do a preliminary dry fitting of the stone veneer to allow for arrangements and orientations of the individual sheets, patterns, textures and colours before final placement. Time spent preparing the work area will pay off immensely. It is recommended that each sheet be dry fit exactly where it will be placed on surfaces. Numbering the sheets to track relocation before cutting and trimming is recommended and will save time.



Before application it may be necessary to clean, brush or degrease any surface of dust or oils as adhesives cannot grip onto loose material. In some installations, depending on the adhesive used it may be necessary to prepare the backing of the stone veneer by sanding or scuffing. Some adhesives may require the use of solvents or recommended primer by the adhesive manufacturer.

## SEALING

2

The first coat of sealant should be applied prior to application to help protect the stone from adhesives and grouts during installation. Further coats to be applied when installed, this will help protect the stone against oils, grease, limescale and UV protection.



## SEALING (cont.)

2

We recommend Aquatect water based sealant, made for use with Easyfit Stone. This will give little colour change and is available in both low and mid sheen to suit all stone.

## CUTTING

3

Cutting straight lines and curves is best done using a stone cutter with a diamond blade, tile cutters, jigsaw or angle grinder.

We would recommend wearing goggles and a mask.



## ADHESIVES

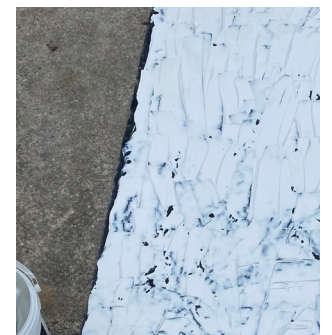
4

Flexible adhesive is recommended for use with Stone Veneer. A patch test should be done prior to installation.

When applying adhesives for external environments please take factors such as moisture, temperature and thermal expansion into account. Stone veneer must be allowed to expand and contract with the substrate and therefore the correct flexible adhesive is paramount. We recommend **Soudal Fix ALL**.

The rear of the Stone veneer may require a filler-type adhesive for some applications. For wet environments, epoxies; polyester resin and water proof adhesives are recommended.

(Continued on next page).



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## ADHESIVES (cont.) 4

Contact adhesives are **not** recommended due to the uneven backing of the stone veneer. Do not use non-catalysing (water vapour type) cure adhesives where the substrate is a moisture barrier. Adhesive may not adhere properly if applied between non-porous materials.

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## JOINING & EDGES 5

Butt up- The sheets can be butted up together and will create a similar look to a wallpaper line between the sheets. When butting the sheets together masking tape can be used to protect the sheets of any spillage or excess adhesive or grout.



Sheets may be butt-jointed for the look of a smaller seam similar to a wallpaper line.

Tests show the use of water based epoxy and acrylic premixed grout work well to fill between the sheets. These grouts are available in several colours to match the existing decor. If desired, a deeper grout joint can be achieved by removing material just under the grout joint area with a grinder or scraping tool. Modified grout and caulking grout can also be used.

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## CORNERS 6

Edging strips can be used on the corners to protect the covering edges and creates an elegant, slim corner detail for the stone to over giving a professional finish. Adhere the short side of stone on the first then the large sheet with an overlap of 2mm, masking tape the sheets together to support them and down the edges. Once the adhesive is set, sand at a 45 degree angle to get a smooth finish.




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## BALANCERS

When applying the stone to units and doors a balancing sheet will need to be applied to the back to counter balance the stone face. This will stop any bowing of the stone.

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## PRECAUTIONS

Precautions must be taken when working with stone veneer due to the fibreglass composition of the backing material. ALWAYS use the proper gloves, goggles and dust mask. Stone cutting should be done outside or in a well ventilated area.

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## STORAGE

To store the stone keep it in a dry place, preferably frost-free and sun protected. The stone is best handled and installed at room temperature.

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## CLEANING

For cleaning prior to the stone being sealed, we would recommend a gentle soap and water or a stone cleaner. Always do a patch test to ensure there is no colour change. Once the stone has been sealed the use of mild detergents and stone cleaners can be applied.

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## MAINTENANCE

Natural stone is a porous material and will require sealing to protect from oils, grease and limescale. Sealants will help to protect the stone in wet areas from limescale and oils. Reapplying the sealer is to be carried out per the manufacturers recommendations. For bathroom and kitchens we advise re-sealing every 6-12 months as it will be washed more than other areas.