

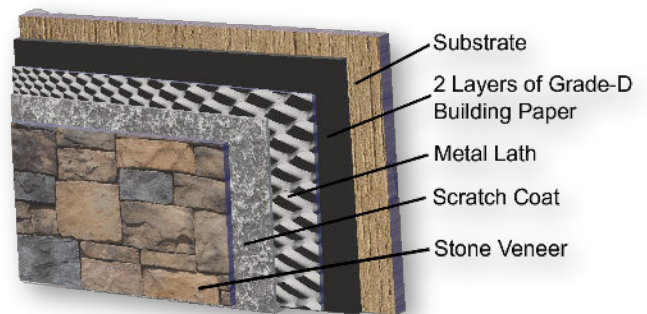
PLANNING

- Below are a few guidelines we recommend for stone veneer installation. It does not represent all installation procedures. For a complete manual, download the *Installation Guide and Detailing Options for Compliance with ASTM C1780 for Adhered Manufactured Stone Veneer* by clicking <http://ncma-br.org/pdfs/masterlibrary/MVMA%20Installation%20Guide%204th%20Edition%20web.pdf>.
- Before beginning your project, check your local building codes to confirm which materials to buy for the proper installation of your stone.
- Calculate the surface area (length x height) of the section you plan to apply stone to.
 - Subtract the surface area of any doors or windows.
 - Add 5-10% to your total square footage to compensate for any stone wasted during installation.

SURFACE PREPARATION

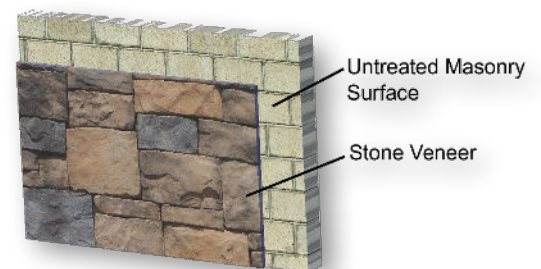
Wood, Wallboard, Paneling, or Plywood Surfaces

- Lay two layers of Grade D waterproof building paper across your substrate. Vertical seams should overlap by six inches and horizontal seams should overlap by four inches, like one would install shingles. The paper should wrap sixteen inches around corners.
- Then attach galvanized expanded metal lath to the substrate by nailing or stapling every six inches vertically and horizontally. The galvanized nails or staples should penetrate the studs a minimum of 1 inch. The lath should extend sixteen inches around corners.



Masonry Surfaces

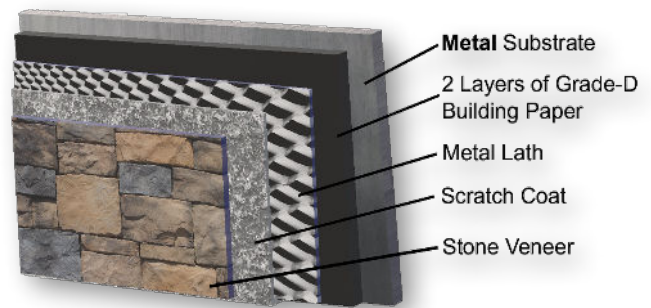
- Clean masonry surfaces, such as a cinder block foundation, do not need any preparation. However, if the surface is painted, sealed, or treated, it must be sandblasted down to the original surface or covered with metal lath adhered with concrete nails that are



resistant to corrosion.

Metal Surfaces

- Metal surface preparation is identical to wood surface preparation, except that when attaching the metal lath, one should use self-tapping screws that penetrate at least $\frac{3}{8}$ " beyond the inside of the surface.



SCRATCH COAT

- Mix a bag of Type S (1800 psi) mortar until it is creamy enough to stick to a square trowel held at a ninety degree angle.
 - Using consistent swiping motions, firmly press the mortar into the lath until a half-inch layer has covered the lath.
 - Not long after applying the coat, slowly swipe across the coat with a small metal rake to create small furrows to which the stone can bond.
- Allow the mortar to dry at least twenty-four hours or more depending on your local building codes.
 - Once the coat is dry, broom it off to loose any excess mortar or dust.
 - The result should be a rough surface that ensures the stone will stick securely.

INSTALLING YOUR STONE

- Follow the color percentages designated for the color combination that you ordered.
 - For example, if you ordered 2 pallets of **SS:RSV5b**---which has a 50/50 combination of *Black* and *Black-Gray*---pull from both pallets evenly as you install. If you do not follow the 50/50 ratio of that combination, your wall will have odd-looking patches of *Black* stone while other areas have patches of *Black-Gray* stone.
 - With every order, we provide clear instructions regarding the color percentages.
- Choose whether to begin installing at the top or the bottom of the wall.
 - Mark the wall with a chalk line every 2', and use a 4-6' level to keep your stones level from one end to the other. Avoid torpedo levels as they yield an inconsistent level of stone.
 - Remember to step back from the wall to check your work. A *level* stone job is the mark of a truly skilled mason.

- Lay out the full gamut of stone colors that your project requires.
 - Select and mist the back of a stone with water. The wet surface helps the mortar retain its own water, which is crucial to creating a strong bond.
- Using a trowel, apply about 1/2" mortar onto the back of the stone, scraping the trowel clean on the back edges of the stone.
 - By scraping the back edges, the mortar should be shaped roughly like a pyramid—the mortar should be highest at the center of the stone and should slope down toward the edges.
 - Finally, press and wiggle the stone against the surface, while allowing some of the mortar to squeeze out around the stone's edges. Styles such as QuickFit require less mortar on the back.
- If you left space for a grout joint around each stone, then mix your colored or uncolored mortar mix until it is workable enough to slowly ooze out of a grout bag.
 - While grouting, avoid smearing the beautiful stone's surface.
 - If you installed your stone using the dry-stack method, no grouting is necessary.

CLEAN THE JOINTS

- When your mortar (and grout, if you used it) has become firm, scrape away any excess mortar around the edges of the stone with a joining tool, and push any lumps of mortar into the voids.
- Then lightly dust the stone to loose any other mortar hanging from the edges to complete the job.
 - If mortar stains the stone's surface, wait until it has dried to a fine powder and lightly brush the dusty mortar off with a whisk brush.
 - **Never use wire brushes or acidic cleansers, and do not wipe off mortar with a wet sponge to preserve the stone from mortar stains.**

POST-INSTALLATION

- Sealing your stone would be a great way to preserve your stone from the elements enhance and even enrich the stone's colors, depending on the sealer you buy.
 - We do not recommend sealing our stone veneer, but if you choose to seal it, then please wait a minimum of 120 days to allow the stone to properly cure.
 - Some sealers deepen the colors and give it a sheen, while other sealers only seal the stone.

Visit www.rocksolidveneers.com today
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DISCLAIMER: This guide follows MVMA and IAPMO specifications that are publicly available. Please check your state building guidelines and codes for more installation information not covered here.