



# Thin Stone Veneer Installation Guide

This installation guide is intended to be an introductory guideline for installing thin veneer. Not all instructions or issues can be covered in this guide sheet. Please check with your sales representative for any questions or concerns not addressed within.

## Step One

**Estimating:** Begin by figuring the square footage of the area you plan to cover. If your project includes corner stones, deduct .75 square feet from the flats for every linear foot of corner pieces needed. Our stone veneer is packaged estimated using a ½” mortar joint. If using a tight joint, build in an extra 8-10% square feet of veneer.  
**Recommended Tools:** Brick Hammer, Brick Trowel, ½” Notched Trowel, Flat Trowel, Joint Tool, Grout Bag, Masonry Bag, Safety Glasses, Dust Mask, Ardex Mortar Products, 6 gallon bucket, Paddle, Diamond Blade and Grinder, Necessary Substrate Products

## Step Two

Identify the surface type to determine what kind of prep you will need to do before applying mortar. If your project is on a framed interior wall a moisture barrier product is not necessary. You will start by adding a wire lath layer affixed to the wall with the appropriate lath screws.

## Step Three

If your veneer project is going to be on an exterior wall or in an area that could be susceptible to moisture, you will need to add a moisture barrier layer. This could be a product such as mortairvent or the Ardex 8+9 moisture barrier system. LandCare recommends using the Ardex moisture barrier product for its ease of application and reliability. Follow the mixing directions on the package for a “paintable consistency”. Using a paint roller apply the first coat in an East-West direction. Allow 30-45 minutes for dry time then apply the second coat in a North-South direction. This two coat application and the change in direction will ensure complete coverage. Mortar can be applied when the 8+9 layer is dry to the touch.

If you have any questions, call or stop by either of our two locations.

603-749-9797 or 603-431-0088

<b>Step Four</b>	LandCare recommends using a High-Bond fortified mortar such as Ardex x77. Use a heavy-duty drill and an Ardex paddle, mix for 2-3 minutes by adding powder to the water until a peanut butter type consistency is achieved. Per 40lb bag, use between 8.25-8.75 qts of water. If mixing smaller batches, mix at a ratio of two parts powder to one part water. Use a ½" x ½" notched trowel to spread the mortar vertically. Do not put more mortar on the wall than can be covered by stone in 60 minutes or less. Stones can be readjusted for 20-30 minutes. If the mortar becomes stiff in the bucket, do not add more water, just re-whip with the paddle.
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<b>Step Five</b>	Before applying the stone, it is a good idea to lay the stone out flat on the ground to determine the sizing and colors of each individual piece, how they will be laid out, and if any trimming is necessary. If cutting the stone is necessary, you will need a diamond blade for your grinder/saw or a masonry hammer for small changes. Brush away any excess dirt before applying to the mortar. Lay the stone against the wall pressing it into the mortar. Laying the stone, try to keep your joints a consistent height and width. Vertical and horizontal joints should be staggered to prevent long, unbroken lines. Install any corners first, alternating short and long lengths as they are stacked.
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<b>Step Six</b>	If you are grouting your joints use either a grout bag or trowel. Fill all the joints between the stones with about ½" layer of mortar. As the grout stiffens, tool to the desired depth. Brush the joints with a whisk broom to smooth them out and clean away any loose mortar. Grout is ready for finishing when it crumbles away like sand when brushed. If the grout smears or falls away in large chunks, it is still too wet for brushing or striking. Finally, use a soft bristled brush to sweep the dust off the stone.
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<b>Step Seven</b>	Be sure to keep you and your natural stone clean during the installation process. When using Ardex brand products the best way to clean excess mortar off the stones is while the material is still wet. Keep a bucket of clean water and sponge handy while working to clean up as you work. If the mortar is allowed to dry on the stone overnight, it will be much more difficult to remove. If heavier cleaning is necessary, a vinegar solution of 10:1 or a stone cleaner can be used. Always follow the manufacturer instructions for cleaners and sealers and test a hidden or scrap piece before doing a large area.
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