



## **Estimating Your Project/Ordering Your Masonal Thin Stone Veneer**

### **Flats:**

Find your square footage by multiplying the length of your area times the height of your area. Then measure the square footage of any doors, windows, etc. And subtract this amount from the total square footage. Please note: you will need to round up to the nearest 10 square feet. Our boxes hold 10 square feet. Masonal Thinstone Veneer crates hold 200 square feet.

### **Corners:**

Measure lineal footage of the corners needed. Corner boxes hold 8 lineal feet.

## **Steps for installation**

### **Materials and tools you will need:**

Weather resistant barrier 15 lb building paper or equivalent, galvanized metal lath (2.5 lb), Type S mortar or preblended stone mortar mix, mason sand, water, wheelbarrow (or cement mixer), trowel, sharp masonry hammer, strike tool or jointer, whisk broom, grout bag.

### **Preparing the Surface**

- Masonal Thinstone Veneer can be mortared directly to concrete (poured or block wall) or brick, on interior or exterior surfaces. Concrete that is painted or coated must be cleaned using sand or water-blast. If unable to thoroughly clean, a metal lath will need to be adhered and scratch coat mortar applied.
- On wood or metal frame surfaces where there is a temperature difference (½” plywood, drywall, wallboard, cement board, wood paneling or metal building) you need to prepare the surface by doing the following steps:
- Apply a moisture control barrier (15 lb building paper or equivalent) over the rigid sheathing. Lap the barrier 6” at side seams and 2” top or bottom seams.
- NOT YET IN BUILDING CODE AS OF MAY 2010: Although a mortar ventilation system is not yet required, we recommend installing it prior to the metal lath to help the wall breath. Install using galvanized staples. Check with your local Building Code to confirm.
- Apply metal lath with wafer drywall screws 1¼ inches into material overlapping lath 2” top and bottom and 6” or to next stud around a corner.
- Be sure to attach the lath with the correct side horizontally – the cups should be pointing up (feels smooth going down). Building Code requirements vary from area to area. Check with your local authorities for building code requirements.

### **Layout of Stones**

- Before applying Masonal Thinstone Veneer, it is best to layout an area of stone near the work area to help find colour, shape and size to design your pattern. This allows you to layout and rearrange the stone in the most pleasing design.
- Attempt to keep the joints between stones a consistent height and width under 1”
- Avoid having joints that line up vertically between rows
- Because this is real stone from a quarry you may need to remove debris from some stones, a few pieces may need to be cleaned with water and a brush prior to application.

## **Masonal Installation Instructions: continued**

### **Mixing Mortar**

Type S or Pre-Blended Veneer Mortar Mix

Follow the manufacturer's specifications for mixing and coverage.

- Use one part Type S mortar with 3 parts masons sand. Mix enough water to achieve a yogurt like consistency.
- This mortar can be used for the scratch coat, buttering the thinstone veneer and to grout the joints.
- A liquid bonding agent can be added to the mortar for additional bonding strength. Follow manufacturer's instructions.

### **Scratch Coat Application**

- Install a scratch coat of 3/8 to 1/2" thick mortar to the metal lath. Groove the scratch coat with 3/8" tile trowel in a horizontal direction. Let cure for 24 hours. If you have allowed scratch coat to dry completely you may have to spray it down lightly with water before applying buttered thinstone.

### **Applying the Stone**

- If you are applying the thinstone veneer directly to concrete or masonry surfaces you will need to improve the wall's adhesion capabilities. To do this dampen the wall prior to installation or add a liquid bonding agent to the mortar mix.
- Install corner stones first starting at the bottom and working up. Apply an even 1/2" thick layer of mortar to the back of the thinstone veneer. Because each stone will be a different thickness you'll need to adjust the amount of mortar applied to the back of each piece.
- Press the thinstone veneer firmly into place until the mortar behind the stone squeezes out on all sides. Wiggle the stone as you press to assure a firm bond.
- Clean stone as necessary during installation. Do not allow mortar to dry on veneer's surface overnight.
- Masonal thinstone veneers can be cut and shaped with a masonry hammer, nippers, or cut to length using an angle grinder with a diamond or masonry blade.

### **Grouting the Joints**

- Position cut edges away from view when possible.
- After veneers have all been applied, fill the joints with mortar using a grout bag.
- Conceal any noticeable broken or cut stone edges by covering with mortar.
- Wait for the mortar to firm in the joints, then rake out the excess using a wood or metal strike tool.
- Joints can remain flush or raked for the desired look.
- Seal all joint edges by applying pressure on the mortar, causing mortar to move into the joints.

NOTE: The mortar joints will smear if they are worked too soon.

### **Brushing and cleaning the Area**

- When the mortar becomes crumbly use a dry bristle brush or small whisk broom to clean spots of mortar off the veneer's face.
- You will also need to brush joints to remove any loose mortar.

NOTE: Loose mortar and mortar spots should not be allowed to dry overnight.

- Use a mild solution of granular detergent mixed with water to remove dirt or other stains. Use a brush to scrub the veneer then rinse with fresh water.
- A stone sealer may be applied to enhance the veneer's colour and protect the stone from penetrating stains. Be sure to test the sealer on an unused stone before applying to make sure you will like the results.

**Masonal Thinstone Veneers are natural products that will vary somewhat in size, shape, colour and texture. Differences may occur from one shipment to another, or even within a given shipment. Installation instructions as published by Masonal Stone Inc., are only intended as a reasonable guide.**