



STONE DESIGN GYPSUM STONE-LOOK WALL DECOR INSTALLATION

Preparation

Tools and material needed

Stone Design Gypsum Stone-Look Wall Decor is made out of reinforced gypsum composite. A fine-finish miter saw with a tilting blade for angled cuts, fine-finish hand saw, miter box, snippers, and rasp are good tools for cutting and shaping the panels. Additionally, the following tools will also be required for installing Stone Design Gypsum Stone-Look Wall Decor products: a steel trowel, notched trowel, scraper, brush, large sponge, and polymer modified tile thin set mortar. For our white and beige Gypsum Stone-Look Wall Decors we recommend a white tile thin set, to prevent stains on the face of the stone.

Substrate Preparation

Before jumping into the installation right away, it is important to plan and measure the wall(s) you are working on extensively. Start by planning your way around obstacles like windows and outlets, decide on the use of a grout line, the laying pattern, and in what direction you want to wrap corners.

Stone Design products may be applied over any prepared masonry / cementitious surface such as cement board, concrete block, brick, cement, or lathe & scratch coat combination. Stone Design Gypsum Stone-Look Wall Decor products can also be installed directly over unfinished drywall or sheetrock. Painted surfaces must be sandblasted, or otherwise stripped of paint before installing and if a new wall needs to be built, or layer added to an existing wall, the most suitable product for these purposes is cement board.

The substrate and wall should be structurally capable of supporting the weight of the product (3 lbs. per sq. ft.). Fibrous cement board should be securely fixed to the wall's framework. We suggest that the board should be glued and screwed to the frame, screwing at 24 inch centers using screws that are a minimum of 2 inches long and covering the entire frame, where contact with the cement board is made, with a good quality mastic type adhesive. To ensure safety, strength and permanent fixing, this work should only be done by a qualified and licensed builder.



Installing Stone Design

Each product should be checked and made free of dirt, sand, or loose particles. The recommended type of adhesive is a pre-mixed polymer modified tile thin set mortar for interior use and is generally available at any tile shop and most big box home improvement stores. When fixing Gypsum Stone-Look Wall Decor tiles it is necessary to start the bottom row on a level line to maintain a consistent level as you work up the wall. It is also important that they rest on a secure base such as a concrete floor or footing to help carry the weight and ensure the level stays consistent until the thin set sets up. When installing Stone Design products use a generous amount of recommended polymer modified tile thin set mortar and apply it to the back of each tile and to the wall. It is important to notch the tile adhesive on to the wall as would normally be the application method used for laying tiles. By applying the adhesive to the back of each tile and to the wall, this ensures the maximum possible adhesion to your wall surface, as all the gaps, voids and cracks are filled. This is a critical to ensure that a strong bond is formed with the wall. Press each panel into the adhesive, rotating slightly, forcing some of the thin set to squeeze out freely. Any thin set forced out beyond the finished joint or on the tile surface itself must be removed before it is allowed to set. Remember tight joints will provide a neat appearance. Be sure not to allow any thin set to harden on the face of the tiles as this will help in the cleanup process. The installation pattern of the product should be strictly followed during installation. Panels should be overlaid or offset so that a "continuous running bond" pattern starts to form, which minimizes the appearance of vertical joint lines up the wall. The panels should not be "stacked" one on top of the other in a single line up the wall.

Working with Corners

The way to form outside corners, or corners that are not at 90 degrees, is to miter cut panels on site. To miter cut an outside corner, select one rock panel and mark the point where the join should be. Cut the panel at the mark with no tilt, or at a 0 degree angle on the saw. Then the two pieces need to be individually cut on a 45 degree miter to form a right angle. Once cut, check the panel to make sure it forms a perfect 90 degree corner. The color, the width and thickness of the stone pieces should match to form a continuous look that seems to "flow" around the corner. Never use 2 different panels to form a corner, as the color, texture and thickness will not match as desired. Inside corners are ideally formed by cutting the stone with a standard inside corner miter cut. Inside miter cuts, where the stone folds into itself, are easy cuts to perform on site with a tilting wet saw. Alternatively, two panels can be butt joined together at the inside corner, and any gaps filled in with pigmented mortar if a tilting wet saw is not available.



Cleaning

Excess dirt and film may be removed using clean water and a clean soft brush. It is important not to allow thin set to dry on face of the stone. Remove it prior to it hardening.

WARNING: Do not use water or acid as they possibly cause stains.

Sealing the stone

Stone Design Gypsum Stone-Look Wall Decor may be sealed with a penetrating, water based multi-surface primer/sealer/stainblocker (e.g. Kilz) after thoroughly curing which usually takes 1 week on inside work. Sealed stone may be easier to keep clean and maintain than unsealed stone and certain sealers also repel stains. Always test a sealer on a sample of stone or an off-cut before applying to the entire application to ensure any color enhancing and sheen properties of the sealer match the desired result.

Sealing Stone Design Gypsum Stone-Look Wall Decor is recommended for certain applications, such as moisture rich environments, and some exterior applications, depending on the level of exposure and other factors, including climate and other environmental factors.

Disclaimer: The information provided here is intended to be general only. It does not purport to be comprehensive. You should not act on the basis of information contained on this site without obtaining qualified professional advice from a licensed professional which can be tailored to suit your specific circumstances and needs.

Professional Installation Recommended. Stone Design Gypsum Stone-Look Wall Decor can be installed by most home handymen with a limited knowledge of building and construction.