

## INSTALLATION GUIDELINES

The following installation instructions must be followed for warranty purposes and for optimal performance. InStone does not install panels or have control over the installation of the panels, therefore these Installation Instructions are to be used as guidelines. Quality Stone panels are for outside (exterior) use only unless panels are ordered as 'Interior' using our Class A fire-rated poly. It is the responsibility of the installer to ensure all products are installed in accordance with the Quality Stone Installation Instructions. InStone assumes no liability for improper installation or personal injury resulting from proper or improper use or installation.

### SAFETY FIRST

The operator of any power tools or other tools should be skilled and familiar with the correct use of each tool. Proper safety gear must always be worn.

### BUILDING CODE

Follow local Building Codes when installing Quality Stone. Quality Stone products are for exterior use only, unless ordered otherwise. It is the responsibility of the installer to ensure that applicable building codes are met or exceeded. Like other siding products, for Exterior use a weather barrier (Tyvek, Typar, tar paper, etc) must be put on top of the wood substrate, before applying Quality Stone.



### RECOMMENDED TOOLS:

Miter Saw and/or Table Saw  
Pencil  
Stagger Stencil  
Safety Glasses

Drill  
Level  
Drywall Saw  
Earplugs

Measuring Tape  
10 oz. Caulking Gun  
Utility Knife  
Dust Mask

### HANDLING AND STORAGE OF PRODUCTS:

Quality Stone products are highly impact resistant once they are installed but should be handled carefully to reduce damage prior to installation. The products should be laid flat and kept out of direct sunlight or they may be susceptible to warping. Exposed polyurethane will yellow in the sun. Ensure any exposed areas are covered with the recommended Stone Finish to protect from UV. Different climates will also have a movement affect (expansion and contraction) in polyurethane products.

Quality Stone has been designed to best adapt to this change, but it is always best to install when panels are cool— please ask representatives for the best stone fit for your application.

Unless ordered in Class A poly for intended solely for interior use, the Product can only be installed on an exterior (outside) of a house/building.

### PRODUCT COLORING:

Please ensure, wherever possible, that the production dates on all product being installed side-by-side are the same. This will help ensure consistent coloring. Most of the time product from different dates will match up, but the installer should check this before installing. There is the possibility for a panel to be slightly off-colored in a batch. Again, check all panels match before installing.

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## BEFORE YOU START:

### 1. MEASURE and MARK:

Products should be measured and marked on the 'brick' surface (face) of each panel. Using a measuring tape, mark with a pencil, and then use a straight edge to mark a cutting line.

### 2. CUT:

Panels and Corner Panels are easiest cut with the flat (backside) down. Use a hand saw or miter saw.

For cutting panels lengthwise, a table saw is recommended for straighter cuts.

To cut outlet and fixture holes, make markings on the backside of the panel, then use a drill and jig-saw (or drywall saw) to cut the opening. For precise cuts or trimming, a utility knife or drywall saw can be used.

### 3. FASTEN:

For Exterior use, panels must be a minimum of 1/2" off the ground. Check your local building code to see if the panels need to be even further from the ground. Use a chalk line to mark a level starting line. For Interior installation, floor can be used as the base if it is level.

Fasten panels using 1.5" wood screws for Exterior, or 1.5" drywall screws for Interior. We recommend putting (7) screws, spaced roughly every 8 inches into the top shiplap and (1) screw into each of the two brick 'voids' on the side of the panel.

If panel is still not secure enough, especially at the bottom, screws can be placed into the grout lines anywhere on the panel.

Stone Finish caulking should be used to cover any screw holes.

## PANEL INSTALLATION:

Modern Brick should be installed working from left to right.

The wall should first be measured and laid out, and a level line should be set prior to installing panels. After the wall is laid out, place and fasten the Corner Panel first (if Corner Panels are being used).

Install a Panel next and continue until you are within one panel of end point. Then measure the distance remaining between the last panel you installed and the end point. Measure and cut the panel the correct length. You may need to loosen the previous Panel off the wall to allow for the final Panel in each row to fit into place.

Unless Corner Panels are being used, begin each next row with the cut panel from the previous row. This will ensure random joint staggers and eliminate waste.

<<make sure each row starts with the same exact brick spacing as the previous row>>

The top row will also need to be cut lengthwise to the necessary height, so the panel fits flush with the ceiling or top of the wall.

## CORNER INSTALLATION:

### MODERN BRICK CORNER PANELS

Quality Stone recommends using Corner Panels wherever possible rather than mitering. For best results, alternate Left and Right Corner Panels on each course, which ensures the joints are staggered, giving the best look. Corner Panels are applied the same as Panels, with screws going into the same places.

### MITERING CORNERS

For an Interior installation, a miter can also be cut using regular Panels and a miter saw. To fit a 90-degree inside or outside corner, cut each end at a 45-degree. If mitering on an Exterior application expansion and contraction can cause the cut pieces to separate.

The 45-degree cuts should be very tight, and then Stone Finish and Touch-Up Paint can be applied. If there is a gap, a screw(s) can be used to fasten the two cut pieces together prior to caulking.

Both cuts should be made at the same place on the same panel to help ensure the stone matches on both sides of the corner.

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## TRIM INSTALLATION:

### LEDGE TRIMS:

In most applications, the Ledge Trims will be sitting on top of an already installed panel. Screws should be applied directly into the grout lines on the face using 3½" - 4" screws every 8". Stone Finish and Touch-Up Paint should be applied to cover any screw holes

\*If a metal flashing is being installed on top, screws can also be put into the top surface as it will be covered by the flashing.

### TOP TRIMS:

In most applications, the Top Trims will be sitting on top of an already installed panel. Apply adhesive to the top of the panel below the trim and then place the Top Trim on top.

\*If a metal flashing is being installed on top, screws can also be put into the top surface as it will be covered by the flashing.

### EDGE TRIMS:

Wherever possible, Edge Trims should be applied prior to installing panels. Screws can be applied every 8" on the side of the trim facing the stone, at a 45-degree angle. This will ensure a strong fasten, and the panels that are installed against the Edge Trim will hide the screws. If panels don't hide the screws, use Stone Finish and/or Quality Stone Paint Kit to finish.

### SIDE TRIMS:

Side Trims are typically applied once all panels are installed. Apply adhesive to the side edge(s) of the installed panels, then slide the Side Trim so one side is behind the panel and the other side butts up to (and covers) the side of the panel with the adhesive.

### FIXTURE TRIMS AND ELECTRICAL TRIMS:

These trims should be installed prior to installing any panels. Both the Fixture and Electrical Trims are applied by diagonally screwing 2 ½" – 3" screws through the sides, bottom, and top. This will allow for the surrounding panels, once installed, to conceal any screw holes. If for any reason the screw is still visible on the side, Quality Stone 'Stone Finish' caulking should be used to cover the screw.

## WALL TYPES:

### APPLICATION OVER CONCRETE/BRICK:

Quality Stone can be applied according to the standard (wood) instructions above, with a couple of differences. A pilot hole can be drilled into the concrete with a masonry bit, and a special masonry screw should be used to fasten the product (no need for construction paper). In some cases, a wood or masonry screw can be applied directly into the concrete without pre-drilling a pilot hole.

A second option is to fasten a sheet of plywood to the concrete and then to continue with normal wood substrate installation.

Adhesive (see below) can be used alone or in conjunction with the screws to ensure a solid installation.

Another method we recommend (if it is an option) is to spend the time to remove the brick. This will make for a much easier and faster installation and will give a good even surface to work from.

### APPLICATION OVER EXISTING SIDING:

All siding should be carefully removed with suitable cutting tools (utility knife, reciprocation saw, etc.). Once this is complete, check to ensure that the construction paper beneath the siding is in good condition (if it isn't, apply new paper). Then proceed with installation.

### APPLICATION OVER ICF'S (INSULATED CONCRETE FORMS):

Use the standard installation instructions above labeled. The plastic 'webs' that are contained within the foam walls will act as a suitable anchor for the screws. Check with the ICF supplier to see whether applying construction paper before the stone installation is recommended. Adhesive (see below) can be used in conjunction with the screws to ensure a solid installation.

### APPLICATION OVER GYPSUM BOARD (DRYWALL):

When installing into gypsum, product must be fastened into the supporting framing wherever possible. Due to the spacing of the supporting framework, this won't always be possible. Coarse drywall screws into the gypsum helps secure the panel as well.

Adhesive (see below) can be used alone or in conjunction with the screws to ensure a solid installation.

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## **ADHESIVE:**

Products can be fastened to concrete, brick or other hard surfaces using the proper construction adhesive. Quality Stone recommends using a heavy-duty construction adhesive like Titebond TiteGrab or Gorilla Glue. All surface areas must be clean, dry and free of oily and loose materials. Due to the smoothness of the back of Quality Stone products, the back should also be roughened to allow for better adhesion. If it is not rough enough, the adhesive may not hold.

Apply adhesive to the back perimeter of the product, and then fill in with a serpentine pattern.

## **FINISHING:**

### **TOUCH-UP PAINT KITS & STONE FINISH CAULKING:**

Quality Stone has special color-matched 'Stone Finish' caulking and Touch-Up Paint Kits available for all Modern Brick colors.

Paint should always go over Stone Finish caulking to ensure a long-term color match. Stone Finish caulking and/or touch-up paint must be used to cover exposed polyurethane, screw holes, damaged panels, or to add extra color.

You can use your finger to smooth and distribute the caulking once out of the gun, and Touch-Up Kits come with a small brush to work it in place. After a product edge is cut or trimmed, Stone Finish or Touch-Up Paint should be applied to the edge. When applying around door or window openings, exterior grade caulking may need to be applied according to local building codes. Check desired temperatures before applying any caulking, adhesives or finishing paint.

**NOTE:** Be sure to dust off any polyurethane dust from the product before applying the Stone Finish.

**EXPANSION AND CONTRACTION:** Polyurethane panels will have minimal expansion and contraction. However, it is recommended to install all Quality Stone products when they are cool (contracted state) and as tight as possible to minimize the visual appearance of expansion and contraction. Stone Finish and Quality Stone Paint Kits can be used to fill in any unwanted gaps for a seamless finish.

**MAINTENANCE:** Dirt and scum can be washed off the product surface with water and a non-scuffing cloth or sponge. Mild, non-abrasive household cleaners or soap can be used carefully with water clean stubborn materials or stains. If any finish is compromised, Stone Finish and Paint Kits can be used for all touch-ups and to re-finish.

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