



Stone Installation Guide...

Preparing the surface...

Apply weather resistant building paper (tar paper, 2- layers) from the bottom up over lapping 4-6 inches. Attach galvanized metal lath horizontally, over lap 4" and screw or nail into studs every 6" penetrating studs 1" to 1.5". Use metal lath over plywood, drywall and cement board. The Stone Factory LLC provides metal lath.

Masonry surface... Stone can be installed directly over clean, unpainted or unsealed masonry surfaces without applying metal lath.

Applying scratch coat... all lathed surfaces should be covered with ¼" to ½" coat of mortar and allowed to dry 24 to 48 hours. Rough up the scratch coat before drying to accept stone. **The Stone Factory** provides the best pre-mixed mortar mix, just add water.

Stone layout... Layout your stone on the floor or ground, before you install to get best design. Work from several boxes or pallets to ensure proper mix.

Applying stone... Butter the back of the stone with ½" to ¾" of mortar and press stone into place firmly, wiggling back and forth to ensure a good bond. Spray the scratch coat and back of stone with water to aid in adhesion. Install corners first and work starting at the bottom and work up. **Remove any mortar from face of stone before it dries.**

Grouting the Joints... After all stone has been installed, fill a grout bag and fill joints with mortar. Be sure to cover any broken or cut edges with mortar.

Striking the Joints... After mortar joints become firm use a metal or wood tool, apply pressure to push mortar into any voids to create a seal around each stone. Do not work the joints too quickly; this will cause the joints to smear.

Brushing... Brush the mortar joints with a brush to smooth and clean away loose mortar. Again remove any mortar on face of stone before it dries.

Sealing... Use a **breathable** masonry sealer to bring out colors and help protect stone. The Stone Factory LLC provides a breathable sealer.