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Frequently Asked Questions

What is the difference between manufactured stone veneer and natural stone?

Manufactured stone veneer is cast from molds of real stone which makes it lighter than natural stone. Natural stone may require wall ties and footings, which, in turn, can increase installation cost and difficulty Mason' Mark architectural stone veneer is lighter weight, designed to adhere easily to a variety of structurally sound surfaces, and is capable of installations that would normally be very difficult and costly to achieve with natural stone.

What are the benefits of using manufactured stone?

Installed, manufactured stone is approximately ⅓ to ½ the cost of natural stone. Its light weight properties eliminate the need for wall ties or footings. Manufactured stone has a 2% (approximately) waste factor versus 10% or more for natural stone**.**

Where can I install Mason's Mark Stone?

Mason's Mark Stone can be applied to any structurally sound surface with the proper preparation. It fits nearly any building plan — large or small, interior or exterior, new residential or commercial projects — or on any remodel. For inspirational installations visit, www.masonsmarkstone.com.

Can I install Mason's Mark Stone myself?

In general, installation of Mason's Mark Stone can be installed by almost anyone. However, installation does require a fundamental understanding of stone masonry. Please review the Installation Procedures and How to Install at www.masonsmarkstone.com or contact Customer Service at 724-635-0082.

How does Mason's Mark Stone withstand freeze / thaw cycles?
As with any installation, making sure to incorporate good building practices that include proper flashing and water diversion techniques will help ensure a successful installation.

How much does Mason's Mark Stone weigh?

Our stone weights approximately 10-12 lbs. per square foot. Mason's Mark Stone qualifies as an adhered veneer because it weighs less than 15 lbs. per square foot.

Will Mason's Mark Stone fade?

The base color is blended throughout and permanent mineral oxide pigments are applied and absorbed when the veneer is cast. Color becomes an integral part of the veneer and, similar to natural stone, there are minimal noticeable color changes after years of weathering**.**

How important is a good stone installation?

As with any building material, the beauty of that product is greatly enhanced by how well it is installed. With Mason's Mark Stone, careful consideration regarding the type of profile and color selected, the actual installed stone "pattern", and the type of grout technique used, are all very important factors to regard. It is always best to create a mock up board with the desired aesthetic appeal prior to installation on your project**.**

Can I install Mason's Mark Stone near water?

It is not recommended for use below the water line in a pool, a fountain or below grade. A high-quality penetrating and breathable sealer that is either silane or siloxane-based is recommended in areas where the stone may be subject to frequent water runoff. NOTE: A sealer may affect the stone color and may create a gloss or matte finish. Always test a small area beforehand**.**

How thick are the stones?

0.625" to 2", depending on the style.

What's the thickness from the substrate to surface of the stone?

There will be (approximately) an additional 0.5"-1" of mortar thickness behind the stone. For example, if your stone profile is 2" thick, you can expect the total thickness from the substrate to the face of the stone to be (approximately) 2.5" - 3" thick**.**

What is the installed weight?

The installed weight will vary depending upon the profile chosen and the mortar, grout technique, lath and lath accessories used. Mason's Mark Stone can weigh up to 15 lb. / sq. ft. If a specific weight is needed for a project we recommend having an engineer evaluate the system.

How do I clean the Mason's Mark Stone?

To clean dirt or other particles first try a simple soft bristle brush. If necessary use a granulated mild type of detergent mixed with water or a solution of (no more than) 1-part white vinegar to 5

parts water. Rinse with clean water to remove any cleaning solution that might remain on the surface. Never use wire brushes, acid cleaners, power washers, bleach, paint remover or any other type of concrete cleaner.

How do I clean efflorescence?

When efflorescence occurs, as it does with many masonry products, it is usually the result of moisture migration through the masonry substrate. Once the moisture is on the masonry surface, it evaporates, depositing dissolved salts in the form of efflorescence. Efflorescence naturally disappears over time as long as the moisture source is controlled or eliminated. Efflorescence may be removed with a solution of 1-part white vinegar to 5 parts water. Scrub using a soft bristle brush and vinegar/water solution. Rinse well with clean water.

Can I seal Mason's Mark Stone?

It is not required to seal Mason's Mark Stone, but a sealer will provide some added protection and will usually be easier to clean if the surface becomes dirty. If you choose to use a sealer for added protection use only a silane or siloxane-based penetrating, breathable masonry sealer. There are urethane and wax-based sealers that can damage the surface or cause it to "yellow". Other sealers may encourage additional efflorescence on the stone's surface. No type of coating should be applied until the stone has been on the wall for at least 28 days. NOTE: A sealer may affect the stone color and may create a gloss or matte finish. Always test a small area beforehand.

Does Mason's Mark Stone require movement joints?

Expansion joints normally pass completely through a wall. Control joints normally are on the surface of the wall and relieve strain on the skin of the wall. Terminate the veneer installation where control and expansion joints occur in the substrate. Do not span these joints with veneer because this will lead to cracking. Expansion joints in a building must be specified by the architect or engineer. The architect or engineer should consider the ASTM C 1063 control joint requirements when determining the location of control joints on any structure. Normally the weakest point on a wall is immediately above and below penetrations.

How do I install Mason's Mark Stone when there is an expansion joint?

Treat each section as a "separate" installation. Do not span movement joints with the veneer.

What is Mason's Mark Stone's recommendation regarding flashing around windows and doors?

To maintain the weather-resistance of the exterior wall on which the stone products are installed, a rigid, corrosion-resistant flashing — and a means of drainage — should be installed at all penetrations and terminations of the veneer cladding. Flashing type and locations shall be in accordance with the requirements of the applicable code and refer to ASTM E2112 and any information from your Window and Door manufacturer.

What kind of Weather Resistive Barrier (WRB) can I use?

It is recommended to use two separate layers of WRB in all applications where WRB is specified. * The WRB must meet the requirements of ICC-ES AC 38 Acceptance Criteria for Water-Resistive Barriers. When using Grade D paper, a 60-minute rating is recommended. Felt paper must be clearly marked that it meets the requirements of ASTM D 226 for #15 or #30 asphalt saturated felt. ** It is acceptable to use one layer of house wrap covered by a second layer of WRB meeting the requirements above. The WRB should be free of tears or holes. * It is acceptable to use one layer of WRB on interior applications. ** Felt meeting ASTM D 4869 or non-ASTM #15 felt is not recommended for use behind veneer.

Should I use a rainscreen drainage plane system?

Mason's Mark Stone Veneer does not require the use of a rainscreen drainage plane system for all applications. However, some building codes now require the use of rainscreen drainage plane systems behind cladding materials such as manufactured veneer. If you are installing veneer in these areas, or wish to provide additional protection against entrapped moisture, then you can use a rainscreen drainage system.

Can we install Mason's Mark Stone around a fireplace?

Mason's Mark Stone can be installed around a fireplace. The veneer has to be a minimum of 18" from any open flame

What measures should be taken for hot /cold weather installations?

For cold weather installations ambient temperature should be 40ºF or higher at the time Eldorado Stone veneer is applied. If the temperature is below 40ºF, mortar should be heated between 40ºF – 120ºF (not to exceed 140ºF). Any mortar that freezes should be discarded. Wall surfaces may need to be covered and heated after installation of veneer to avoid freezing the mortar. See section 2104.3 of the International Building Code (IBC) for additional cold weather requirements. Applications in hot weather conditions should follow the requirements in section 2104.4 of the IBC. Mortar should be kept under 120ºF and be used within 2 hours of initial mixing.

Does Mason's Mark Stone need a ledge detail at the bottom for structural support or can it hang freely?

No footings or support ledges are needed. The product is an adhered veneer and is supported on the wall by the bond of the mortar to the stone and scratch coat

What measures should be taken for applications over 30 feet?

Mason's Mark Stone can be installed on any structurally sound surface. For all applications up to 30' in height we recommend following our Installation Procedures. Unless special construction

techniques accommodate differential movement — which is approved by a code official — there is a 30' height limit for installations over wood-frame construction. For installations over non-wood-framed sheathing (e.g., steel studs, concrete walls, etc.) there’s no specific height limitation. However, Mason’s Mark Stone recommends that you consult with a building code official regarding any project exceeding 30' in height.