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## **Stone Veneer Safety, Care & Maintenance Instructions**

Confirm installer compliance with OSHA regulations by reviewing written safety programs and training documentation. Provide fall protection for installers who may be exposed to fall hazards. Scaffolding should be constructed and maintained in strict conformance to OSHA regulations. Installation of stone veneer above 30 feet on wood framed sheathing should only be installed if a building code official has inspected the site for differential movement and approved the use of stone veneer for this application. Mason's Mark does not recommend using stone veneer above 30 feet, unless approved by a code official.

### **Surface Scuffing**

Surface Scuffing is a normal occurrence on all manufactured stone and is caused by processing and handling. This is a natural attribute that adds to the aesthetic appeal of stone products used in building construction. Some scuffing will occur on manufactured stone veneer due to handling. Light scuffing can be removed by following the cleaning procedures outlined in this document. In cases where excessive scuffing is experienced, consult your Mason's Mark representative.

### **Cleaning**

Dirt and other particles can be removed from the manufactured stone veneer surface by using a mild soap detergent mixed with water and a stiff non-metal bristle brush. Do not over scrub the surface as a permanent discoloration may occur. Never use acid or chemical based cleaners on the manufactured stone veneer as permanent damage may occur and will void the manufacturer's warranty. Do not attempt to use a pressure washer or any other method of cleaning with a high pressure this can permanently damage your stone veneer and will void the manufacturer's warranty.

## **Efflorescence Removal**

Simple washing will often remove efflorescence. Scrub with a stiff brush and mild detergent or plain water. Efflorescence is most soluble when it first appears, so sooner is better than later if you want to try this approach. Just wetting efflorescence can make the film seem to go away (it actually becomes transparent), but you'll need to apply some elbow grease to do a thorough job. Always be sure to rinse thoroughly. If you leave dissolved salts on the surface, they'll return as new efflorescence. A general rule for cleaning efflorescence is to try gentle methods first before moving on to harsher techniques, due to the fact that any intense cleaning efforts may actually open pores in Stone Veneer and encourage further efflorescence.

## **Sealing**

Sealing of manufactured stone is not required. Using a sealant on Mason's Mark stone veneers will void the warranty. However, if a customer chooses to utilize a sealer, a high quality breathable concrete sealer is recommended. Allow stone to cure a minimum of 10 days in dry, 50 degree weather before attempting any sealing.

## ***CAUTION***

**Some sealers may change the color and appearance of manufactured stone. Always test a sealant on several sample pieces before applying to a completed project. Apply sealers in acceptable temperatures and conditions recommended by the manufacturer.**