

# stone veneer

# FITTING PREPARATION

## PRODUCT OVERVIEW:

**LBS Stone Veneer** is a 100% natural stone cladding system, cut to 30mm nominal thickness to give the exact look of 'full thickness' stone. Suitable for interior and exterior projects, Stone Veneer is light and easy to install and offers a cost saving on labour and material compared with traditional masonry. Available in 4 beautiful colours: Blue Diamond, Jerusalem Sandstone, Black Limestone and Donegal Mix. Stone Veneer is sold per m<sup>2</sup> and each pallet contains 10m<sup>2</sup> which includes a mix of rectangular and square pieces, varying in size. Stone Veneer pre-made corner pieces are also available, which allow for the seamless creation of corner detail.

## ESTIMATING MATERIALS:

### Stone

To estimate the quantity of Stone Veneer you need simply multiply the height by the width of the area to be covered. Then subtract any openings such as doors and windows. This is the total surface area for which you will need flat stone. It is good practice to allow 10% for wastage.

### Corners

To estimate how many corners you will need simply measure the vertical external corners. If the window and door jambs require corner stone also measure the vertical length required for these. Please note that it is advisable to allow some extra time for cutting and trimming. Corners are sold per linear metre.

### Adhesive

We recommend using LBS adhesive for the installation of Stone Veneer. To determine the quantity of adhesive required, allow one bag per 3m<sup>2</sup> of flat stone\*. Multiply the total linear length of corners by 0.2 to give you additional bags required for corner stone.

### Gun Pointing Mortar (GPM)

LBS recommend the use of gun pointing mortar (GPM) for grouting. It is available in both charcoal and natural grey. You should allow one bag of GPM for every 4m<sup>2</sup> of stone\*.

*\*Please note additional adhesive and GPM may be required depending on the stone type and quantity.*

## PREPARATION OF THE SURFACE:

### New Block/Concrete Surfaces

Ensure new block surfaces are clean and free from any debris and dust prior to installation. We recommend applying a scratch coat with a water sealer for chimney stacks to minimise water penetration.

All new-build concrete substrates containing mortar must be constructed a minimum of 7 weeks prior to fitting Stone Veneer cladding.

### Existing Surfaces

Existing plastered or dashed surfaces must be cleaned back to their original surface by sandblasting, water blasting, acid etching or wire brushing. Alternatively, a metal lath could be attached using appropriate corrosive resistant concrete fixings with a coating of adhesive fully applied over the metal lath. All contractors and specifiers must be confident that the existing surface will support the weight of the Stone Veneer once installed.

### Uneven / Rough Surfaces

For levelling any uneven or rough surface, it is recommended to apply a plaster scratch coat. The contractor must be content the surface will be solid and not loose so as to support the weight of the Stone Veneer.



# FITTING INSTRUCTIONS

## Step 1 - Pre Application

- Before applying, lay out a small area of stone in front of your project area to give you an idea of the laying pattern on your wall.
- Arrange the pieces so that they fit complimentary next to one another. It is useful to take photographs at this stage to refer back to and use a numbered sequence left to right.
- Try to avoid fitting similar size pieces together in the one area.
- First, coat the wall with LBS adhesive using a notched trowel but only apply enough adhesive that can be covered within 30 minutes.
- Stone Veneer must not be fitted externally when temperatures are forecast to be 5°C or less or more than 35°C for the next 48 hours.

## Step 2 - Installation

- Start at the corners and work towards the centre of the wall.
- Be sure to alternate long and short returns on corner pieces.
- Take a clean stone and slightly dampen the back, this will remove any dirt and will prevent moisture loss from adhesive.
- Apply a coat of adhesive approx. 10mm to the entire back of the flats and corners.
- Press the stone onto the wall rotating slightly to force some of the adhesive to squeeze out.
- Any adhesive forced out should be removed before the adhesive is allowed to set. Adhesive joints are better off narrow but should be consistent.

- Fill any gaps with small stones and use spacers where necessary to maintain the joint. Evaluate your work as you go along.
- Cut and trim the stones if you need particular size to fill the gaps.

## Step 3 - Fitting Stones & Grouting Joints

- Fill all the gaps between the stones with Gun Pointing Mortar (GPM) or alternatively grout with a sand cement/lime (check suitability) to slightly above the desired finish depth. The grout will tighten and seal up the area around the stone.
- Let the GPM/grout dry until it is firm but not solid. You want to be able to push on it without leaving fingerprints, but don't let the GPM/grout dry too much or it will be very difficult to strike.
- Strike the GPM/grout to achieve the desired finish look.
- Use your striking stick to scrape along the joints until the GPM/grout has a clean and even look.

## Step 4 - Sweeping the Stone

- Finally, use your medium bristled brush to sweep the dust off the stone.

