

INSTALLATION PROCEDURE

ESTIMATING THE AREA

Determine the amount of PIEDRA WALL CLADDING needed by estimating the area to be covered. Compute the length times the height to get the area of stones needed. Subtract the area of all doors and window openings. Also measure the lineal feet of outside corners to determine the amount of corner pieces needed. One linear meter of corner covers approximately 0.2sm of flat area. Deduct area of corners from your previous total. Allow some extra stones for cutting and trimming.

TOOLS AND SAFETY GEAR

Before starting work, it is always better to have the required tools and safety gear to ensure the proper and safe installation of PIEDRA WALL CLADDING. Here are some of the tools and equipments that maybe needed for the job.

- Mason's Trowel
- Grout Bag
- Margin Trowel
- Whisk Broom
- Metal Jointing Tool / Wood Stick
- Wide Mouth Nippers / Hatchet
- Hock and Trowel
- Safety Glasses
- Level
- Dust Mask
- Masonry, Circular , Table Saw or Grinder with Carborundum or Diamond Blade



INCORRECT LAYING

SURFACE PREPARATION

1. All concrete or CHB surfaces (new or old) should be clean and free from release agents, form oil, paints, grease and other materials that may affect proper adhesion of PIEDRA WALL CLADDING.
2. If any type of paints or sealers exists; sandblast or water blast the area to its original surface. For form oils; etch surface with muriatic acid, then rinse thoroughly and/or score with wire brush.

INSTALLATION PROCEDURES

A. Preparing the Work Area

Spread out the PIEDRA WALL CLADDING stones at the jobsite to have a good view of the variety of shapes, sizes, and colors to choose from. Plan for some variety and contrast in the overall design. Use small stones next to the large stones, heavy-textured stones next to smooth, thick stones next to thinner stones.

B. Starting From the Bottom Up

Apply mortar and stone by working from the bottom up. Most PIEDRA WALL CLADDING stones can also be applied from the top down. Working from the top down may help avoid splashing previously installed stones with dripping mortar.

C. Keep the Joint Width Consistent

Place the individual stones close together creating uniform joints between them. In order to attain the most natural look, joints should be as narrow as possible and should not exceed 1/2". An attractive look can also be achieved by fitting stones tightly if desired. Cut and trim as required to achieve a consistent joint width. Then trim and fit small pieces into remaining voids.



CORRECT LAYING

D. Setting the Stones

Press each PIEDRA WALL CLADDING stones into the mortar setting bed firmly enough to squeeze some mortar out around the stone's edges. The back of the stones must be wet or dampened but free from surface water. Preferably, mortar should be tinted to match the color of the stone to conceal joint lines. Ensure complete coverage between the mortar bed and back surface of the stone by applying on the entire back. Apply pressure to ensure a good bond. Avoid smearing mortar on the surface of the stone. Accidental smears should be removed using a whisk broom only after the mortar has become crumbly.

E. Corner Stones Comes First

If the job requires corner pieces, install these first then followed by the adjoining flat pieces. Take note that corner pieces have long and short sides. Alternate its installation in opposite directions.



CORNER UNITS

F. Install Flat Pieces Next

After the corner pieces are in place, install the flat pieces working towards the center of the wall. Continue horizontally and complete each course or pattern before starting the next.

Strike off excess mortar around the edges of a stone using a trowel prior to placing the next stone. This will allow the next adjacent stone to fit tightly. Choose the correct length of stone to ensure the vertical joints do not line up. If required, cut the stone to fit at the end or top of the finish area. Frequently check the installation for level and alignment.

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FLAT UNITS

G. Cut and Trim

Stones can be cut and shaped for fit by using wide mouth nippers, hatchet, table saw, circular saw, and small grinder equipped with a dry cutting diamond or carborundum blade. Cutting should be done outside as some dust will occur. To attain a good finish, coat the cut or broken edges with mortar. Position cut edges up when located above level, and down when below eye level. Place finished edges at exposed areas. Use safety glasses and dust mask when cutting and trimming.

H. Constantly Check For Level and Plumb

Generally PIEDRA WALL CLADDING stones should be placed butting each other and aligned for level and plumb. Long rectangular pieces will look most natural when laid horizontally.

I. Clean the New Installation

When the mortar has sufficiently dried up, the installed PIEDRA WALL CLADDING stones should be broomed or brushed to remove loose mortar and to clean the face of the stone. Never use a wet brush to treat mortar joints since this will stain the stones and will be very difficult to remove. Also, do not use acid or acid base products.

