**Oasis Stone Company**
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# Recommended Installation Instructions

*The Oasis Stone Company Thin Veneer Products*

## Description of Thin Veneer Stone

The Oasis Stone Company's Thin Stone Veneer Products are lightweight, easy to apply, durable, and most importantly, 100% natural stone. Select pieces of stone are first split down to a manageable size. They are then run through a saw to remove the face of the stone. It is this face that we refer to as a Thin Veneer. The stone is then washed, graded, packaged and palletized in such a way as to prevent breakage during transport. Each piece of stone is unique, as no moulds or color additives are ever used. The weight of the stone varies somewhat between 8 and 15 pounds per square foot, depending on which product is being used. The stones are backsawn at an average thickness of 1 inch; however, the thickness may vary from .5 to 2 inches. Height and length of the stones as well as color vary from product to product and this information can be obtained from our Product Specifications. All of our Thin Veneers are derived from Full Size Wallstone Veneer. It is common practice to combine both types into one project.

## Application of Thin Veneer Stone

The Oasis Stone Company's Thin Veneer Products are equally suitable for use in both interior and exterior applications. Our Thin Veneers have been designed for non-structural use as a lightweight veneer facing applied to both masonry and wood surfaces on residential or commercial applications. A foundation, wall ties or other structural support is not required*. Installation is simple, faster, and inexpensive compared to heavier stone veneers.

## Estimating Required Amount of Thin Veneer Stone

Measure the length times the height (in feet) of the project to determine the amount of Thin Veneer "Flats" that will be required. Subtract square footages for any openings such as doors, windows, or fireplace inserts. In areas where a matching outside corner is desired, measure the lineal footage to determine amount of "Corner" pieces that will be required. Obtain some extra stone to allow for wider a selection, cutting, trimming or replacement if accidentally damaged during the installation process.

## Surface Preparation

### Concrete or Masonry Surfaces:

If any form oil is present or suspected, wash with muriatic acid to produce etching, score surface with a wire brush, and rinse thoroughly with clean water, allow drying. Ideally, use water under high pressure to wash, and sandblasting to etch surface.

If any paints or sealers are present they must be removed entirely.

**All surfaces must be adequately washed and dried to ensure surface is free of dust, dirt, and other contaminants.**

### Concrete Surfaces Protected With a Waterproof Membrane

If the stone must be applied over any liquid, oil or tar based painted on waterproof membrane; under no circumstances should mortar or stone be directly applied to the surface. Install a weather resistant barrier overlapping joints a minimum of 4 inches and sufficient enough to prevent contact of mortar to the painted surface. Then install code approved metal lathe overtop of the surface with galvanized nails or fasteners, to a depth of 1 1/2 inches or as acceptable by the local building code, to a maximum of 6 inches apart in any direction. Ensure that no residue from the waterproofing agent is present on the surface of the lath.

### Wood Surfaces:

Always ensure that the surface the stone is to be applied to has been installed properly and according to code.

Install a layer of code approved weather resistant barrier overlapping lap joints a minimum of 4 inches. Install code approved metal lathe with galvanized nails or screws that penetrate a minimum of 1 1/2 inches into the wood. Space nails or

screws a maximum of six inches apart in any direction. Use a nail or screw of suitable length to obtain a depth of at least 1 1/2 inches into the stud when attaching over a stud.

### Stone Preparation

Lay stone out on a flat surface near to the application area. Always blend stones together from different pallets to prevent minor color variances from becoming noticeable. Ensure stone is clean and free of dirt and dust. In colder climates, ensure stone remains at temperatures above freezing 48 hours prior to installing.

Plan for some contrast and variety. Mix colors, sizes, shapes, thickness, and textures to create unique and natural finishes.

Blending together different Oasis Stone Company Thin Veneers can achieve a customized look.

### Mortar Preparation

Type M or S masonry cement to be used. A bonding agent is to be added to the masonry cement while mixing at a ratio of 4 oz. to 1 standard bag of cement. When mixing and using the mortar, the mortar should be firm yet moist. Dry-crumbly mortar requires more water, while drippy-soggy mortar needs to have more mix added. Consistency is correct when you apply a stone to the wall and the mortar firmly oozes around the stone but does not roll or creep over the face of the stone while you are pressing the stone into the wall. Throughout the installation procedure ensure that the mortar mix remains consistent. Only mix the amount of mortar you will be using immediately.

Re-tempering of the mortar is not allowed. Mortar that sits for more than two hours must not be used.

For some applications and designs, the addition of colors and pigments to the mortar will enhance the overall look of the stone. In some applications a Thin Set Mortar base may be required and should be used as per Thin Set manufacturer's recommendations.

### Installation of Thin Veneer Onto Prepared Surface

Once the installation of stone has begun, do not allow any construction to occur on the opposite side of the wall for a period of 72 hours after completion of the installation process.

Always start at the corners first and work towards the middle. Work from the bottom up. Try to stagger where you finish off, as these areas tend to have smaller stones and look different than the rest of the wall. Avoid having "running joints", that is, vertical joints running in a straight line for more than 2 or 3 stones as this will deter from the look of strength the stone wall offers.

Apply a 1/2 – 3/4 inch thick scratch coat of mortar over the wall over an area of 2 to 10 square feet at a time. Any more than this and the coat will dry out prematurely. Rough up the surface of the mortar using a trowel, rake or other tool while still wet.

Spread a layer of mortar to the entire back of the stone, pressing the mortar on firmly with the trowel. This layer should be 1/2 inch thick at the edges and over 3/4 inch thick at the center, with a pyramid type appearance. The entire back of the stone must be covered.

Press the stone firmly in place moving it slightly back and forth expelling the air and causing a vacuum-like adhesion.

Ensure that you push hard enough to cause the mortar to ooze out around the stone. To obtain a dry-pack look, keep the joints as tight as possible. The stone can be cut or split to fit using common stone working tools and, unlike simulated stone, will not show an undesirable core when cut or split. After cutting the stone, place the cut side facing up above eye level and facing down below eye level. Trowel the joints if visible or use a grout bag. Take care to avoid spilling mortar onto finished stonework. Remove any mortar off of the stone by using a soft to medium dry brush, as a wet brush will just spread the mortar out more thinly and may cause staining.

### Exterior Application Notations

Flashing must be installed to prevent water from getting in behind the stone. All efforts must be made, and all building codes must be followed, in regards to the prevention of water being allowed to reach behind the stone. The absence, or incorrect installation, of flashings, caulking, copings, waterproof barriers, weep-holes, downspouts and gutters (etc.) may allow water to drip on or behind the stone. Salt, de-icing chemicals, or soils and grasses may react with the mortar mix and can stain the stone. In areas where these conditions may present themselves, ensure that the Thin Veneer is at an appropriate height to avoid any potential problem.

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## Sealers and Enhancers

While the Oasis Stone Company does not endorse one specific sealant, enhancer, or manufacturer, we do suggest, just as all natural and simulated stone manufacturers do, that the stone be sealed. The sealant or enhancer must be designed for natural stone. Follow the stone sealer manufacturer's recommendations and test on a small hidden area first to ensure expected results.

## Cleaning

As the Oasis Stone Company's Thin Veneers are 100% natural stone, are not poured from molds, and do not have painted surfaces, extra precautions are not required when washing the stone. A simple solution of soap and water should clean most dirty surfaces. A bristle brush may be required for stubborn situations.

## Efflorescence

Efflorescence is an unsightly residue caused by water-soluble salts being released to the surface from mortar, stucco, concrete, brick or simulated stone. As the Oasis Stone Company's Thin Veneers are completely natural, efflorescence will not be caused from the stone, but rarely may come from the masonry cement. To clean this, allow the film to completely dry then scrub off. A bristle brush and clean water is usually sufficient, but if not, use a water : vinegar solution at a 5:1 mixture. Always use clean water to rinse off.

## Building Code Requirements

Building Code requirements will vary from area to area. Check with your Local Building Authority to obtain the requirements for your area. Always incorporate good building practices.

## Safety

Always wear safety glasses, gloves, safety boots and appropriate safety apparel when working with any stone product.

The mortar mixes and stone sealers can be particularly irritating to the skin. Read all manufacturers' labels prior to using their products.

## Storage

No special storage conditions are required for the The Oasis Company's Thin Veneer products as they have been exposed to Mother Nature for a few million years. The mortar mix should however be kept free of moisture.

## Weather Conditions

Do not allow the drying mortar to be exposed to freezing temperatures.

In hot and dry weather, spray the back of the stone with a very thin layer of water from a fine mist sprayer to prevent over absorption of water from the mortar mix. If applying directly onto concrete or masonry surfaces or onto a scratch coat surface, a light water film may also be required.

## Note:

**Local Building Codes and Requirements must be researched and followed by the installer for all installations.*

*It is the responsibility of the installer to ensure that the Manufacturer has not changed or updated this document.*

*These installation recommendations are provided only as ideas for solutions to architectural designs, they do not necessarily apply to specific architectural applications. These installation recommendations may require changes to meet a particular design requirement. The Oasis Stone Company will accept no responsibility or liability for use of these installation recommendations.*