

# INSTALLATION GUIDE

## TOOLS & MATERIALS

Hammer	Brick Trowel
Scraper	Stiff Brush
Flat Trowel	Joint Tool
Grout Bag	Masonry Brush
Sand	Cement
Constitution Thin Veneer Stone	



## 1. Surface Preparation

Natural Thin Stone Veneer may be applied over any masonry surface, concrete block, brick, cement, etc. Painted surfaces must be sandblasted, or otherwise stripped of paint. If it is difficult to remove paint or if surface is of frame construction, nail metal lath to wall securely, 6" on center. (For exterior, apply vapor barrier first, then metal lath.) Apply scratch coat (2 parts washed sand to 1 part Portland cement) to lath. Make certain lath is covered completely with a thin coat (1/2" – 3/4" thick). Use a metal scraper or small scrap of lath to lightly rake horizontal grooves in the scratch coat. Allow scratch coat to set up or cure. This is now a masonry surface to which the Thin Veneer may be applied using the following steps: (cement board or similar product can be used in place of metal lath but the scratch coat is still necessary.) \*\*

## 2. Mix rich mortar

(2 parts washed sand to 1 part Portland cement) to a creamy consistency similar to whipped potatoes. Mix a minimum of 5 minutes. Recommended — add 1/2 gallon of acrylic 60 to each bag of mortar for added adhesive.

## 3. Preliminary Layout

Determine if stones will be laid out on ground to the desired fit prior to installation, or if trimming is required to complete finished application.

## 4. Wash Thoroughly

Make certain surface is free of dirt, sand, or loose particles. When necessary, wash stone completely. If surface is dry, dampen first with a masonry brush but do not saturate. This prevents the wall from pulling the moisture from the mortar, allowing it to set up both naturally and with a better, stronger bond. For cleaner installation, begin applying stone at the top of the wall and work toward the bottom. Trowel rich mortar onto wall approximately 1/2" thick.

## 5. Dampen Stone

Take clean stone and slightly dampen back side. This frees any dust and again prevents moisture loss from mortar.

**6. Apply a generous coat of rich mortar** onto back side of the stone. This fills in pits and rises in the stone and creates a stronger bond with the wall.



## 7. Press stone into mortar

Rotate stone slightly, forcing some of the mortar to squeeze out freely. Any mortar forced out beyond the finished joint or on the stone surface itself must be removed with trowel, joint tool, or brush before the mortar is allowed to set up. Narrow joints will provide a nice appearance.

## 8. Fill joints

Use a grout bag to fill all joints (or use trowels). As the mortar stiffens, tool to the desired depth and be sure to brush off all excess. Be sure not to allow any mortar to harden on the face of any stone. This will aid in the cleanup process.

**If you have any problems or questions contact your dealer. We will always do our best to help you in any way we can. Thank you for making the REAL choice for your Thin Stone Veneer.**

## HOW TO CLEAN

Excess dirt and film may be removed using clean water and a stiff brush, it is important not to allow mortar to dry on face of stone. Remove it prior to it hardening.

## HOW TO SEAL

Stone may be sealed with a good quality penetrating sealer only after thoroughly curing which usually takes four weeks on inside work. Follow the manufacturer's directions

to apply sealer. Sealed stone may be easier to clean than unsealed stone and certain sealers also repel stains. However, sealers must be periodically reapplied, especially on exterior applications, and could alter the natural coloring of the stone.

\*\* This document is only meant as a guide to installing Constitution Stone Veneer. Each installation may vary depending on masonry products used and experience of installer. Should you have any questions we encourage you to contact your local dealer or supply yard prior to installation.