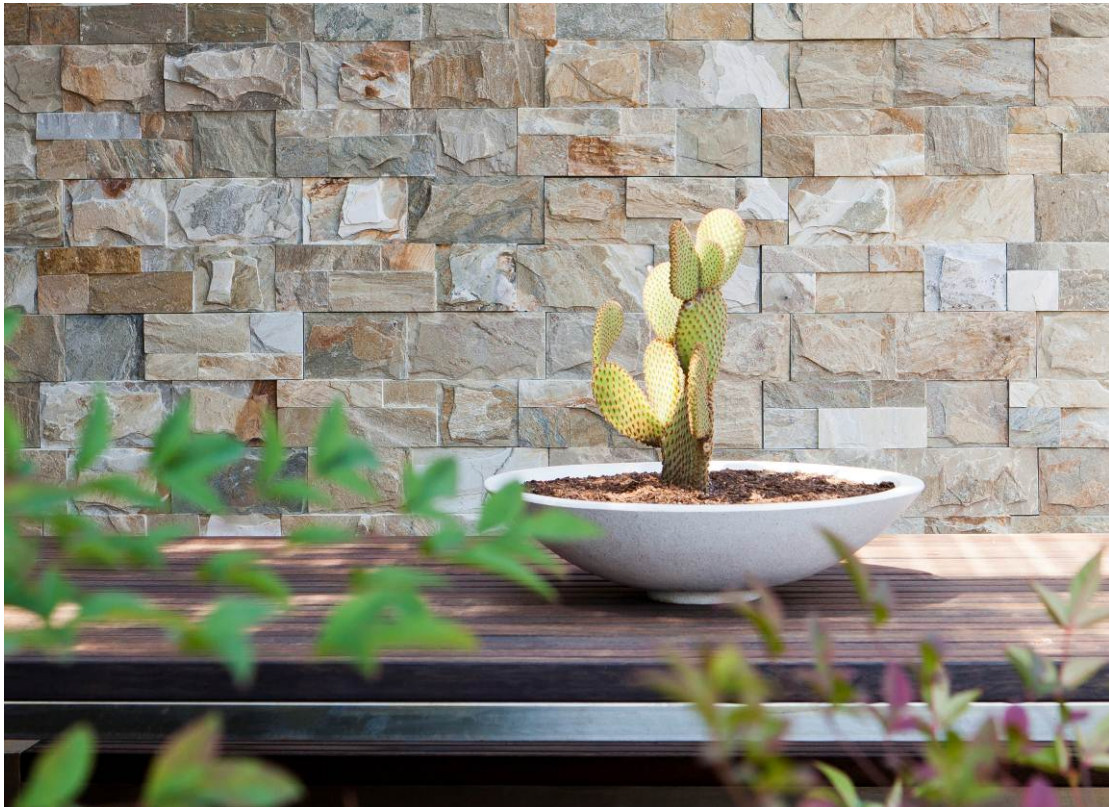


## **BALLARAT SERIES STONE PANEL INSTALLATION GUIDE**

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### **INTRODUCTION**

Ballarat Series is a natural stone cladding material made into easy to handle panels that is suitable for indoor and outdoor use on feature walls, feature panels, columns, retaining walls and facades.



Ballarat Bengal Quartz

### **PRODUCT RANGE**

- Each natural stone panel covers 450 x 250mm in a Z shape. The average thickness is 8 to 20mm.
- The average weight is 45 Kg per square metre for Ballarat Bengal Quartz and 50Kg per square metre for Ballarat Rustic Quartz.
- Ballarat series panels are supplied in shrink wrap packs of 3 panels. Each pack contains 1/3 square metre.
- The weight is between 15 and 17 Kg per pack or 45 and 50 Kg per square metre.

There are two colours available in the Ballarat Series:



Ballarat Bengal Quartz- Item 6038 / 97651



Ballarat Rustic Quartz - Item 6045 / 97652

## IMPORTANT

Supporting framework and walls must be structurally sound and able to support the weight of the Ballarat Series natural stone panels. Check with a suitably qualified engineer or professional builder if in doubt. The manufacturer of the substrate material may also give advice as to the ability of their material to support the weight of natural stone cladding. See the following Ardex Technical Bulletins: TB001 Installation of heavy stone and Tile that includes a table of typical substrates and recommended supporting weights, and TB148 for examples of mechanical fixing systems that can be used together with adhesive.

**Note: DO NOT USE HardiTex Blue Board as a substrate for stone installation. The manufacturer does not recommend it as it will not support the weight, especially if it is subject to any moisture.**

## Installation guidelines

1. The substrate surface must be clean, rigid and structurally able to support the weight.
2. All new concrete must be fully cured (minimum 28 days) and free from all contaminants and curing compound. .
3. Waterproofing of the substrate may be required in water features or where it is the subject of efflorescence. Ensure any waterproofing is appropriate and compatible with the adhesive to be used.
4. The following adhesives are suggested as suitable for use with Ballarat Series however check with the manufacturer for specific installation suitability:
  - **ARDEX:** Optima 2, Ardeex STS8 mixed with Ardion E90 additive, or Abaflex
  - **MCB** A 66, A 80, A 20 with Admix A. If the stone is exposed to a lot of water, use A 80 or A 20 with Admix A.

Product data sheets should be read carefully prior to adhesive use and all the manufacturers guidelines followed. If in doubt consult the adhesive manufacturer.

5. Use no less than a 10mm notched trowel to apply the adhesive to the substrate. Test to ensure the entire back of each panel is being covered by adhesive by removing occasional test pieces. Additional adhesive can be applied to each stone piece to ensure full coverage and contact.
6. The substrate and panel may need to be dampened to remove dust. Both should be clean. In hot weather the substrate and stone may need to be

dampened to reduce moisture absorption. Avoid tiling in direct hot sunlight as adhesive can skin. The stone surface may also become very hot and cause skinning of the adhesive. If this occurs stop immediately.

7. Mix stacked stone panels from a number of packs to achieve a natural blend of colours.
8. Firmly press each piece into place with a sliding motion across the adhesive ribs. .
9. Sponge adhesive residue off the surface immediately
10. Work in small areas so the adhesive does not skin.
11. Complete each row before starting the next.
12. Check the level each two or three rows. Fix an initial 2 -3 rows and allow to cure before proceeding. Do not remove any bottom shims or supports before the adhesive has reached maximum cure strength.
13. The product should not be installed above 2 metres without the use of mechanical fixing in addition to the adhesive. See Ardex Technical Bulletin TB148 as a guideline but consult a structural engineer.
14. Mitre cut corners with a diamond blade wet saw. Use a diamond blade wet saw for all cuts
15. Use expansion joints for wall areas larger than 3 metres in length. Install expansion joints at all changes of plane, changes of substrate, joins in substrate.
16. Do not grout
17. A penetrating sealer is recommended to be applied to the surface after installation. A colour enhancing stone sealer can be used as an alternative if richer colour is desired. Test a small piece first before applying to the wall. The installation should be fully cured and dry before sealing.

**Notes:**

- I. Prevent any vibration or hammering of the wall for a minimum of 24 hours after installation
- II. Some stone may leach or bleed colour when exposed to water or chemicals
- III. Colour variation is an inherent feature of natural stone products
- IV. Always use appropriate safety equipment when cutting and installing natural stone and tile. Follow safety precautions when using cutting equipment

This installation guideline is for information only and is not intended to be interpreted as a general or complete specification for the application or installation of the products described. As each project differs, recommendations may vary from those contained herein. For specific applications/ installations, contact your adhesive supplier, a professional builder or natural stone installer or structural engineer for further advice or to answer specific installation questions.