

## INSTALLATION GUIDELINES

The following installation instructions must be followed for warranty purposes and for optimal performance. InStone does not install panels or have control over the installation of the panels, therefore these Installation Instructions are to be used as guidelines. Quality Stone panels are for outside (exterior) use only unless panels are ordered as 'Interior' using our Class A fire-rated poly. It is the responsibility of the installer to ensure all products are installed in accordance with the Quality Stone Installation Instructions. InStone assumes no liability for improper installation or personal injury resulting from proper or improper use or installation.

### SAFETY FIRST

The operator of any power tools or other tools should be skilled and familiar with the correct use of each tool. Proper safety gear must always be worn.

### BUILDING CODE

Follow local Building Codes when installing Quality Stone. Quality Stone products are for exterior use only, unless ordered otherwise. It is the responsibility of the installer to ensure that applicable building codes are met or exceeded.



### RECOMMENDED TOOLS:

Miter Saw and/or Table Saw  
Pencil  
Stagger Stencil  
Safety Glasses

Drill  
Level  
Drywall Saw  
Earplugs

Measuring Tape  
10 oz. Caulking Gun  
Utility Knife  
Dust Mask

### HANDLING AND STORAGE OF PRODUCTS:

Quality Stone products are highly impact resistant once they are installed but should be handled carefully to reduce damage prior to installation. The products should be laid flat and kept out of direct sunlight or they may be susceptible to warping. Exposed polyurethane will yellow in the sun. Ensure any exposed areas are covered with the recommended Stone Finish to protect from UV. Different climates will also have a movement affect (expansion and contraction) in polyurethane products.

Quality Stone has been designed to best adapt to this change, but it is always best to install when panels are cool— please ask representatives for the best stone fit for your application.

Unless ordered in Class A poly for intended solely for interior use, the Product can only be installed on an exterior (outside) of a house/building.

### PRODUCT COLORING:

Please ensure, wherever possible, that the production dates on all product being installed side-by-side are the same. This will help ensure consistent coloring. Most of the time product from different dates will match up, but the installer should check this before installing. Also, there is the possibility for a panel to be slightly off-colored in a batch. Again, the installer should check all panels match before installing.

For more information, please visit our website or contact us:

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## INSTALLATION – 1-2-3

**1. MEASURE and MARK:** Products should be measured and marked on the 'stone' surface (face) of each panel. Using a measuring tape, mark with a pencil, and then use a straight edge to mark a cutting line.

**2. CUT:** The panels are easiest cut with the flat (backside) down. Use a hand saw or miter saw to make the cut. For cutting panels lengthwise, a table saw is recommended for straighter cuts. To cut outlet and fixture holes, make markings on the backside of the panel, then use a drill and jigsaw (or drywall saw) to cut the opening. For precise cuts or trimming, a utility knife or drywall saw can be used.

**3. FASTEN:** Use a chalk line to mark a level starting line. Begin by installing the Starter Strips along your starter line for the starting (bottom) row.

If the installation is into a substrate (ie. concrete) which makes installation of the starter strips difficult, other means (ie. face screwing bottom row) may be necessary.

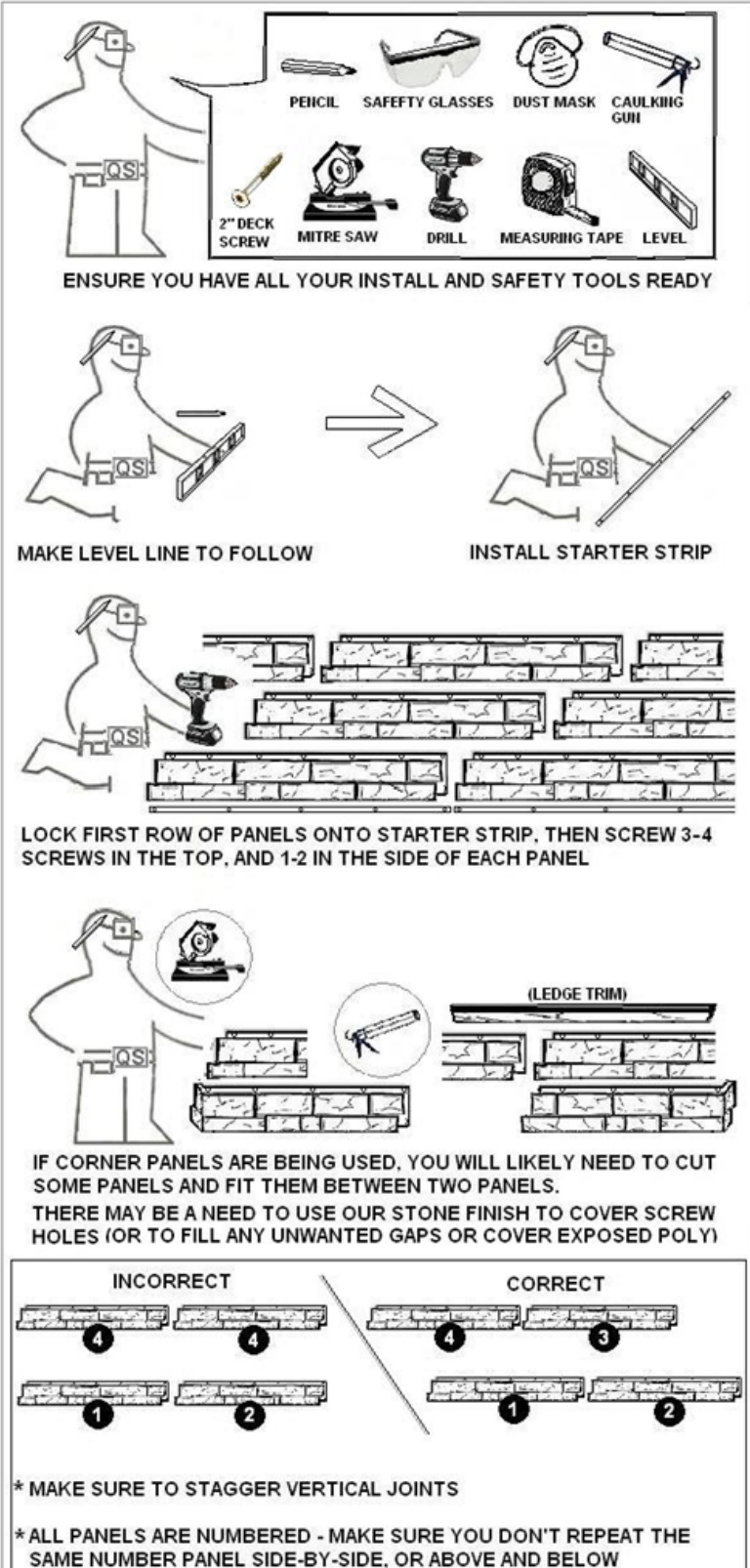
The bottom row of panels sits and locks into the Starter Strips. Starter Strips must be a minimum of 1/2" off the ground for proper fastening. Check your local building code to see if the panels need to be even further from the ground.

Fasten panels using 2" wood screws (must penetrate wood 1"). We recommend putting (6) screws, spaced roughly every 8 inches near the bottom of the tongue (inside ledge where the tongue meets the top stones), on the top tongue of each panel. Screws should not be put in the tongue on the side of the panel, as these screws can become visible as the panels move over time. In some cases, where the tongue has been cut off, all screws must be applied directly into the face of the panels. Stone Finish caulking should be used to cover screw holes.

Like other siding products, a weather barrier (Tyvek, Typar, or tar paper) must be put on top of the wood substrate, before applying Quality Stone. When fastening trims and detail pieces – screw directly into the face (longer screws such as 3-4" may be necessary), and then filled with Stone Finish caulking.

### EXPANSION AND CONTRACTION:

Polyurethane panels will expand and contract much like many other building materials. It is recommended to install your panels when they are cool (contracted state) and as tight as possible to minimize the visual appearance of expansion and contraction. If a gap(s) is noticeable, Stone Finish can be used to fill in any gaps.



**ENSURE YOU HAVE ALL YOUR INSTALL AND SAFETY TOOLS READY**

**MAKE LEVEL LINE TO FOLLOW**      **INSTALL STARTER STRIP**

**LOCK FIRST ROW OF PANELS ONTO STARTER STRIP. THEN SCREW 3-4 SCREWS IN THE TOP, AND 1-2 IN THE SIDE OF EACH PANEL**

**IF CORNER PANELS ARE BEING USED, YOU WILL LIKELY NEED TO CUT SOME PANELS AND FIT THEM BETWEEN TWO PANELS. THERE MAY BE A NEED TO USE OUR STONE FINISH TO COVER SCREW HOLES (OR TO FILL ANY UNWANTED GAPS OR COVER EXPOSED POLY)**

**INCORRECT**      **CORRECT**

**\* MAKE SURE TO STAGGER VERTICAL JOINTS**

**\* ALL PANELS ARE NUMBERED - MAKE SURE YOU DON'T REPEAT THE SAME NUMBER PANEL SIDE-BY-SIDE, OR ABOVE AND BELOW**

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## **INSTALLING PANELS:**

Quality Stone can be installed working in either direction. In the rare case that you are working between two walls, it is recommended to work from right to left for an easier install. Each of the stone profiles has 4 different patterns or panels, each of which is numbered accordingly. Effort should be made to keep same-numbered panels away from one another (you don't want them beside one another or on top of one another). Optimally, they should be installed 1-2-3-4, and if there is a row above this one – they should be installed 4-3-2-1, etc.

The wall should first be measured and laid out, and a level line should be set prior to installing the starter strips. After the wall is laid out, place and fasten the corner(s) first. Then measure the distance remaining between the last panel and the wall. Measure and cut the panel the correct length (using the Stagger Stencil). Put Stone Finish caulking on the cut edge to cover the exposed polyurethane. Then cut the tongue off the panel that will meet up to the new cut piece. Place the panel in its designated position to check the fit. Ensure the Stone Finish has created a seal between the panels.

Begin each next row with the cut panel from the previous row. This will ensure random joint staggers, and eliminate waste. The top row will also need to be cut lengthwise (ripped) to the necessary height so the panel fits flush with the ceiling or top of the wall.

## **INSTALLING CORNER PANELS:**

Quality Stone recommends using Corner Panels rather than mitering. For best results, alternate Left and Right Corner Panels on each course, which ensures the joints are staggered, giving the best look. Corner Panels are applied the same as Panels, with screws going in the top tongue of the panel. Corner Panels should be installed using a minimum of 3 screws.

*\*\*IMPORTANT - Make sure to use a Panel or another Corner Panel as a spacer when installing the Left Corner Panels. If this is not done, the return on the Corner Panel will be too tight to the wall, and the tongue of the adjoining Panel will not have a groove to fit into\*\*.*

## **MITERING CORNERS**

For an interior installation, a miter can also be cut using regular Panels and a miter saw. If mitering on an exterior application expansion and contraction can cause the cut pieces to separate. (Opening up of cut corners is not covered under warranty). Cuts should be very tight, and then Stone Finish and Touch Up Paint applied in combination to ensure long-term color match. If there is a gap, a screw(s) can be used to fasten the two cut pieces together prior to caulking.

To fit a 90-degree inside or outside corner, cut each end at a 45-degree angle and try for no gap, and apply the caulking. Both cuts should be made at the same place on the same panel to help ensure the stone matches on both sides of the corner.

If there is a gap, tighten screws or nails and fill unwanted gaps with Stone Finish and/or Quality Stone Paint Kit.

## **INSTALLING LEDGE TRIMS:**

In most applications, the Ledge Trims will be sitting on top of an already installed panel. Screws should be applied directly through the face (\*not the top) using 3½" - 4" screws every 8". Stone Finish and Touch-Up Paint should be applied to cover any screw holes

\*If a metal flashing is being installed on top, screws can also be put into the top surface as it will be covered by the flashing.

## **INSTALLING TOP TRIMS:**

In most applications, the Top Trims will be sitting on top of an already installed panel. Apply adhesive to the top of the panel below the trim and then place the Top Trim on top.

\*If a metal flashing is being installed on top, screws can also be put into the top surface as it will be covered by the flashing.

## **INSTALLING EDGE TRIMS:**

Wherever possible, Edge Trims should be applied prior to installing panels. Screws can be applied every 8" on the side of the trim facing the stone, at a 45-degree angle. This will ensure a strong fasten, and the panels that are installed against the Edge Trim will hide the screws. If panels don't hide the screws, use Stone Finish and/or Quality Stone Paint Kit to finish.

## **INSTALLING SIDE TRIMS:**

Side Trims are typically applied once all panels are installed. Apply adhesive to the side edge(s) of the installed panels, then slide the Side Trim so one side is behind the panel and the other side butts up to (and covers) the side of the panel with the adhesive.

## **INSTALLING FIXTURE TRIMS AND ELECTRICAL TRIMS:**

These trims should be installed prior to installing any panels. Both the Fixture and Electrical Trims are applied by diagonally screwing 2 ½" – 3" screws through the sides, bottom, and top. This will allow for the surrounding panels, once installed, to conceal any screw holes. If for any reason the screw is still visible on the side, Quality Stone 'Stone Finish' caulking should be used to cover the screw.

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## **APPLICATION OVER CONCRETE/BRICK:**

Quality Stone can be applied according to the standard (wood) instructions above, with a couple of differences. A pilot hole can be drilled into the concrete with a masonry bit, and a special masonry screw should be used to fasten the product (no need for construction paper). In some cases, a wood or masonry screw can be applied directly into the concrete without pre-drilling a pilot hole. A second option is to fasten a sheet of 1/2" or 3/4" plywood to the concrete and then to continue with normal wood substrate installation. Adhesive (see below) can be used alone or in conjunction with the screws to ensure a solid installation.

Another method we recommend (if it is an option) is to spend the time to remove the brick. This will make for a much easier and faster installation and will give a good even surface to work from.

## **APPLICATION OVER EXISTING SIDING:**

All siding should be carefully removed with suitable cutting tools (utility knife, reciprocation saw, etc.). Once this is complete, check to ensure that the construction paper beneath the siding is in good condition (if it isn't, apply new paper). Then proceed with installation above "INSTALLING PANELS".

## **APPLICATION OVER ICF'S (INSULATED CONCRETE FORMS):**

Use the standard installation instructions above labeled "INSTALLING PANELS". The plastic 'webs' that are contained within the foam walls will act as a suitable anchor for the screws. Check with the ICF supplier to see whether applying construction paper before the stone installation is recommended. Adhesive (see below) can be used in conjunction with the screws to ensure a solid installation.

## **APPLICATION OVER GYPSUM BOARD:**

Gypsum board applied over framing - the product must be fastened to the framing wherever possible. If there are instances where the wood framing isn't enough, coarse thread drywall screws can be used. Adhesive (see below) should also be used in conjunction with the screws.

## **ADHESIVE:**

Products can be fastened to concrete, brick or other hard surfaces using the proper construction adhesive. Quality Stone recommends using a heavy-duty construction adhesive like Titebond TiteGrab or Gorilla Glue. All surface areas must be clean, dry and free of oily and loose materials. Due to the smoothness of the back of Quality Stone products, the back should also be roughened to allow for better adhesion. If it is not rough enough, the adhesive may not hold. Apply adhesive to the backside of the products in straight lines.

## **FINISHING PAINT KITS AND CAULKING:**

Only Quality Stone 'Stone Finish' caulking is recommended. There are also paint Touch-Up Kits available for minor touch ups and to properly color the Stone Finish or other caulking used. Touch-Up Paint should always go over Stone Finish caulking to ensure a long-term color match. Stone Finish caulking and/or touch-up paint must be used to cover exposed polyurethane, screw holes, damaged panels, or to add extra color. Exposed polyurethane will yellow and can deteriorate over time. You can use your finger to smooth and distribute the caulking or use a small brush to work it in place. A moist grout sponge can be used to clean the excess caulking from the product. After a product edge is cut or trimmed, Stone Finish and Touch-Up Paint should be applied to the edge. When applying around door or window openings, exterior grade silicone may need to be applied according to local building codes. Check desired temperatures before applying any caulking, adhesives or finishing paint.

**NOTE:** Be sure to dust off any polyurethane dust from the product before applying the Stone Finish. In some instances, a couple of different colors of Stone Finish may need to be mixed to get the desired color.

**EXPANSION AND CONTRACTION:** Polyurethane panels will have minimal expansion and contraction. However, it is recommended to install all Quality Stone products when they are cool (contracted state) and as tight as possible to minimize the visual appearance of expansion and contraction. Stone Finish and Quality Stone Paint Kits can be used to fill in any unwanted gaps for a seamless finish.

**MAINTENANCE:** Dirt and scum can be washed off the product surface with water and a non-scuffing cloth or sponge. Mild, non-abrasive household cleaners or soap can be used carefully with water clean stubborn materials or stains. If any finish is compromised, Stone Finish and Paint Kits can be used for all touch-ups and to re-finish.

