The Classic Series
Installation Guide


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Introduction
Preparation and installation of Classic Series tiles varies from a standard stone veneer installation, therefore it is critical that these guidelines are followed. We recommend hiring a tile setter or stone mason that has experience laying large format tiles. Size and color variations are inherent in all manufactured stone veneer products. All questions regarding suitability and/or acceptability must be resolved prior to installation. Use constitutes acceptance. All material stored on-site should be protected from the elements before and during the installation process.

Step 1 - Preparing Surface Area
To ensure a proper installation, it is important that you start with a flat substrate. Keeping substrate surface variations to a minimum allows for a proper installation.

Step 2 - Using Chalk Lines
Chalk lines should be utilized to ensure a level installation. The first course of stones will determine the levelness of each additional row above. It is critical that the first course of stones are installed level.

Step 3 - Dampening Wall
The wall should be dampened prior to application. However, in hot weather environments, it is also necessary to mist the wall during the installation.

Step 4 - Applying Bond Coat
A polymer-modified thinset bond coat should be applied to the substrate moments before you start installing the tile. Applying the bond coat only to the area you are immediately installing over ensures that it will not dry prior to installation. If the bond coat dries or “skims over”, remove it, clean the surface and re-apply a fresh bond coat.
Step 5 - Preparing Tile Surface Area
Moisten the back of the tile with a wet sponge. With the flat-end of the trowel, apply a thin layer of the bond coat to the back of the tile. Working the bond coat into the stone from multiple directions will break any surface tension and aid proper adhesion.

Note: Coronado Stone is hand-made. As such, slight variations in thickness and size are expected. Using a 7/8” to 1” total thickness (including mortar and tile) is ideal, however this will be determined by how flat the wall is. Please allow for any possible inconsistencies.

Step 6 - Applying Mortar To the Tile
Using a 1/2” notched trowel, at a 45° angle, apply a polymer-modified thinset bonding mortar (meeting ANSI A118.4 or ANSI 118.15) to the back of the tile. Do not apply mortar in a fan or swirl pattern. The notched lines should run parallel to the long edge of the tile to ensure that air does not get trapped behind the tile while working it into the wall.

Note: Do not use Type S or Type N mortar for the application of Classic Series tiles.

Step 7 - Working the Tile Onto The Wall
Apply the tile to the wall slightly above the desired position and work it in using a left-to-right motion until the mortar squeezes from the perimeter of the tile and full-coverage adhesion is achieved. This will ensure that the tile will settle at the desired height.

Step 8 - Utilizing Shims and Spacers
To keep tiles from sliding, wood shims or plastic spacers should be used to maintain uniform head and bed joints. A 1/4” grout joint is recommended.
Step 9 - Leveling Multiple Tiles
Use a large level to check and maintain an even-face plane over multiple tiles. To ensure a flat installation, readjusting of tiles may be required and should be done prior to the mortar setting up. A 7/8” to 1” block of wood can be used to check the perimeter of Classic Series flat tiles (Smooth Limestone, French Limestone, Colosseum Travertine and Aegean Coral) to ensure an even-face plane is being achieved.

Step 10 - Supporting First Row
To help ensure a level installation we recommend using a piece of rigid aluminum channel to place the first course on. The aluminum can be screwed in or propped up using spare wood pieces.