

# INSTALLATION TIPS

## FREESTYLE WALLING



## **DISCLAIMER**

Please note, all the information provided in this document should only be used as a guide at the time of installation for trade practices only.

All information offered is in conjunction with site-specific factors. Kindly note, the guide and the provided instructions are not intended to replace any expert contractors' or consultants' advice or the applicable manufacturer's technical data sheet or suggested application method.

Any information in this document may be changed, deleted, or otherwise modified by Stone Centre without prior notice basis business requirements.

## **PRODUCT CONSIDERATIONS**

Stone Centre's range of Freestyle Walling is a free form of natural stone pieces in asymmetrical sizes used for indoor and walling projects. This series is available in different stone materials like limestone, sandstone etc., As a result of their age-long development under a variety of weather conditions, these pavers and tiles vary from batch to batch. A significant part of what everyone loves about natural stones is the natural variation that makes them so distinctively lovely.

It is normal to anticipate some degree of dimension and thickness tolerance. Samples should only be used as a guide for shade and colour. Stone Centre advises you to evaluate the product at the time of delivery to make sure the stone's colour and other qualities are as per your expectations. During installation, always ensure to combine pavers and tiles equally from all crates.

Minor scuffing and marks are not regarded as structural defects. Kindly notify Stone Centre Team before the installation, if there is any noticeable severe chipping or thickness variance in the provided product, if any. The product is accepted before installation only.

## **THICKNESS/SIZE CONSIDERATIONS**

The Buyer should keep in mind, some 1st-grade freestyle walling may be slightly chipped and/or broken. These imperfections can be used as cuts/infill. All stone pavers and tiles may vary in dimensions by +/-2mm when sawn cut and the thickness may vary by +/-3mm. respectively.

## **STORAGE**

The product should ideally be kept indoors, away from rain and direct sunlight. Kindly avoid stacking crates on top of one another.

## **INSTALLATION CONSIDERATIONS FOR FREESTYLE WALLING**

### **SUBSTRATE/WALL**

The supporting structure needs to be suitable for the placement of stones and structurally sound. A structural engineer may be needed for this.

For walls made of concrete, block, or brick, the surface must be true and level with no more than a 2mm variation every 4m. According to the manufacturer's instructions, a render should be done if the wall is not straight. Oils, grease, waxes, paints, curing agents, and any other loose contaminating substances should not be present on the surface.

New concrete must have a wood float finish, be free of any laitance, and be given six weeks to cure.

Old concrete should be cleaned of all laitance and have a keyable surface.

Prior to applying any stone adhesive to tilt-up concrete panels, it is crucial to remove all residue from release agents and other materials from the panel.

It can be essential to use mechanical fasteners like a shelf, pin, or tie back system.

## **CONTROL JOINTS**

Control joints should be used in the following areas:

- Over weakened plane joints and background movement joints.
- At the intersection of several backdrop materials.
- Where stone surfaces are broken up by fixtures like columns and beams.
- Internally, at the corners.
- Every horizontal and vertical joint (spaced roughly 3 to 4.5 metres apart).

## **FOUNDATIONS/SUBSTRATES**

### **RENDER**

- According to the manufacturer's directions, all render needs to be liquid changed and bonded.
- Tolerance of +/-2mm in 4m is required for the render to be accurate. Key ability is crucial for completion.
- No single coat of render should be less than 8mm or more than 16mm thick, and the final thickness should not exceed 20mm.
- Before applying stone, the render needs to be fully cured.

### **WATERPROOFING**

Prior to installation, drainage design and waterproofing should be considered as part of a larger "moisture management strategy." Prior to installing the stone pieces, we advise covering the substrate (preferably the bedding screed) with a waterproofing product or membrane to help prevent efflorescence and other moisture-related problems.

### **SEALING**

It is evident to seal freestyle walling products. Sealing increases the stone's durability and maintains the aesthetics of the stone for a longer time. Stone Centre recommends dip-sealing our walling pieces before installation. Make sure that the pre-sealing product you use is compatible with the stone adhesive you've chosen.

There is continuous research and development of sealers and there are many sealing products available in the market. We recommend connecting with your installer to select the best sealer for the material.

## **GENERAL TIPS REGARDING ADHESIVE SELECTION**

To bed stone components, we advise using synthetic stone adhesives. Adhesive development and research are always progressing. There are numerous trustworthy businesses and a vast selection of products.

- Make sure the stone's back is spotless and free of debris and other impurities.
- Use a 10mm x 10mm to 12mm x 12mm notched trowel to evenly spread the glue, making sure the stone surface is completely covered and the ultimate bed thickness is at least 2mm.
- Before attempting to adhere a stone, it should be fully back buttered on each stone.
- Before setting the stone, the adhesive shouldn't be allowed to skin. To guarantee that the stone is quickly attached to the adhesive bed (according to the manufacturer's specifications), work within designated regions.
- A sample stone piece should be removed, the adhesive coverage noted, and the stone re-laid appropriately to ensure that full coverage is being maintained.
- Remove any remaining stone adhesive with a sponge right away.
- Stone pieces must remain undisturbed for at least 24 hours after being laid.
- Vertical progression should be carefully considered to ensure that it is acceptable (don't install too high too soon).
- There are many procedures that can be employed to achieve a certain aesthetic depending on the type of stone that is to be installed. Use tapered wedges or pre-soaked timber spacers where a grout joint or coursing is desired. As soon as the stone adhesive has dried but is not yet totally cured, make sure to remove these.
- Please pay close attention to the corner details to make sure the stone never appears to be "floating" on a wall. Most stone styles come with corner pieces.

## **ALWAYS CONSULT YOUR INSTALLER IF UNSURE**

### **WEATHER CONSIDERATION**

If you are expecting rain or expecting bad weather, avoid installing the Freestyle Walling.

When laying stones, on hot days (over 30°C), might lead to delamination problems between the stone and the adhesive bedding layer.

### **CUTTING**

Cutting should ideally be done with a bench saw equipped with a wet diamond blade. To prevent cutting paste from drying and damaging the stone's surface, it should be cleansed as soon as it is cut.

Crystalline Silica (Silica dust) is a typical mineral present in soil, sand and stone. Additionally, it is used in the production of materials including bricks, tiles, concrete, and faux stone. When using power tools to cut, grind, and drill such materials, safety gear should be worn because exposure to silica can result in several health problems. On the job site, the correct safety precautions for silica exposure should be followed.

## **POST INSTALLATION MAINTENANCE**

Over time, Freestyle Walling will need some sort of upkeep, which will vary from surface to surface and be greatly influenced by use, location, and product type. Cleaning alone or a combination of cleaning and sealing may be required depending on the product type and maintenance requirements.

## **ACCEPTABLE CHARACTERISTICS**

Freestyle Walling is made of naturally occurring material, therefore there may be variations in colour and/or surface finish. You might also notice a fossilised texture on some of the Freestyle Walling we supply. It is important to note this fossilised texture is not a defect, but it is considered to increase the beauty of your project post installation. The user oversees inspecting the stone before laying them. Small scratches and chips are not flaws because they are not structurally sound. A warranty claim may be made for any piece that exhibits significant chipping or variation in thickness and dimension before installation.

**Please Note:** Free Style Walling may fade a little over time when fully exposed to UV in outdoor conditions.

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