

INSTALLATION MANUAL: FLEXIBLE STONE

1. BEFORE INSTALLATION

To ensure a successful and long-lasting application, the following storage and environmental requirements must be observed:

- **Storage & Handling:** Cartons should be stored **horizontally (flat)** upon delivery and prior to installation.

The storage environment must be maintained between **14°F (-10°C) and 104°F (40°C)**.

- **Ideal Installation Conditions:** For optimal adhesion, installation is recommended when ambient temperatures are between **50°F (10°C) and 86°F (30°C)**, with a relative humidity of **35% to 70%**.
- **Application Scope:** This product is designed strictly for **wall applications** and is not suitable for flooring or areas subject to foot traffic.
- **Orientation:** The panels offer design flexibility and can be installed in either a horizontal or **vertical** orientation.
- **Substrate Requirements:**
 - **Flatness:** The wall surface must be level, with a maximum deviation of **3mm over a 2-meter span**.
 - **Surface Condition:** The base must be flat, dry, clean, and free of dust, oil, or any loose particles.
 - **Structural Integrity:** For new cement walls, the curing period must be fully complete. For renovation projects, existing substrates must be firmly adhered; otherwise, they must be properly prepped or removed.
- **Compatible Substrates:** Concrete, Cement mortar walls, Drywall (Plasterboard), Wood panels (Plywood/MDF)

2. PRODUCT INSPECTION & PRE-LAYOUT

To ensure the highest quality finish, a thorough inspection of the materials is required prior to installation:

- **Initial Verification:** Upon delivery, all products should be verified for type, quantity, and color consistency.
- **Aesthetic Characteristics:** Please note that these designs are engineered to replicate the authentic appearance of **natural marble**. Consequently, **subtle color variations and tonal shifts** between individual pieces are intentional and contribute to the natural beauty of the product.
- **Dry Layout Recommendation:** It is highly recommended to **arrange the pieces on a flat ground surface** before application. This allows for the adjustment of patterns and color distribution to achieve the most balanced and aesthetically pleasing effect.
- **Installation Policy:** Please be advised that the manufacturer **cannot accept responsibility** for claims regarding color variations or aesthetic dissatisfaction once the product has been permanently installed.

3. CUTTING

To achieve precise dimensions and clean edges, Flexible Stone must be processed using professional power tools. Standard utility knives are not suitable for this material.

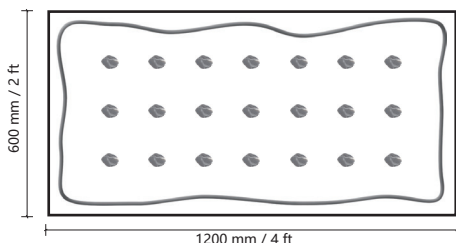
- **Primary Sizing and Straight Cuts:** For linear cutting and edge trimming, use a **Table Saw** or **Circular Saw**.
 - **Blade Requirement:** For optimal results, use a **fine-toothed carbide-tipped blade** or a **continuous rim diamond blade**. These ensure a smooth finish and prevent chipping along the cut line.
- **Perforations and Internal Cutouts:** For electrical outlets, plumbing penetrations, or irregular profiles, a **Jigsaw** or a **Hole Saw** should be utilized. Ensure the panel is properly supported on a stable work surface to eliminate vibration during the cut.
- **Mitered External Corners (45°):** To create seamless external corners, use an **Angle Grinder** fitted with a fine-grit diamond grinding disc. Carefully bevel the rear edge of the panel at a **45-degree angle** to facilitate a precise "V-joint" assembly.

4. BONDING & INSTALLATION

Depending on the installation environment, two primary bonding methods are recommended to ensure maximum adhesion and durability.

- **Option 1: Interior Installation (Structural Adhesive)**

For indoor applications, a high-quality **structural adhesive** should be used.
- **Application:** Apply the adhesive to the back of the panel using a **"point-and-line" technique**. Adhesive points should be spaced approximately **6 inches (15cm)** apart across the surface.



- **Edge Sealing:** A continuous line of adhesive must be applied along the **entire perimeter** of each panel to create a moisture barrier and ensure edge stability.
- **Option 2: Exterior Installation (Full-Bed Tile Adhesive)**

For outdoor applications, a **full-bed mortar spread** using a dedicated tile adhesive is required to withstand environmental stressors.

- **Application:** Use a notched trowel to apply the adhesive evenly over the entire back of the panel, ensuring 100% coverage to prevent any hollow spots or water infiltration.
- **Surface Leveling & Bonding :** Immediately after placing the panel, use a **Rubber Grout Float** to firmly and evenly press the material onto the substrate. This ensures a flat finish and eliminates any air pockets, effectively **preventing hollow spots** between the stone and the wall.
- **Joint Spacing (Mandatory):** Regardless of the bonding method used, a joint gap of **2mm to 3mm** must be maintained between all panels. This gap is essential for accommodating thermal expansion and providing a cavity for subsequent grouting.

5. GROUTING

To maintain the aesthetic integrity and structural performance of the wall, please follow these precise grouting procedures:

- **Surface Preparation (Masking):** Before applying grout, apply **masking tape** along the edges of the Flexible Stone panels on both sides of the joint. This protects the stone's surface texture from grout residue and ensures a clean finish.
- **Material Specification:** A **cement-based grout** is required for all installations, regardless of whether the application is interior or exterior.
- **Color Selection:** To achieve a seamless, monolithic appearance, it is strongly recommended to use a grout color that matches the specific tone of the Flexible Stone. Please contact your grout supplier to obtain a **color chart** for accurate comparison and selection.
- **Application Technique (Grout Bag):** Use a **Grout Bag** to precisely inject the grout into the 2-3mm joints. This method minimizes mess and ensures the cavity is completely filled.
- **Finishing and Cleaning:** Allow the grout to set until it is semi-dry (firm to the touch).
 - Carefully scrape away any excess grout material and remove the masking tape.
 - If necessary, use a damp sponge to lightly smooth the joint, but avoid using excessive water which may cause color leaching.

6. SURFACE PROTECTION

Flexible Stone is manufactured with a factory-applied surface protection layer. However, depending on the project requirements, an additional protective coating may be applied:

- **Optional Performance Enhancement:** If enhanced stain resistance or a higher level of surface durability is desired, an additional Stone Protective Agent (Sealer) may be applied at the customer's discretion.
- **Application Technique (Mandatory):** If a sealer is used, it must be applied via spray. Do not apply the sealer using a brush or roller, as wiping or spreading may result in uneven coverage, streaks, or an undesirable alteration of the stone's matte texture.

7. MAINTENANCE & CARE

To preserve the natural aesthetic and structural integrity of Flexible Stone, please adhere to the following maintenance protocols:

- **Approved Cleaning Tools:** For regular dust and surface debris, use a **dry microfiber cloth**. For deeper cleaning, a **damp cloth** or a **soft sponge** with clean water is sufficient.
- **Chemical Restrictions (Critical):** Under no circumstances should the surface be treated with harsh chemical agents. This includes, but is not limited to:
 - **Acidic or Alkaline cleaners** (which can etch the surface).
 - **Alcohol-based solvents.**
 - **Acetone or paint thinners.**
- **Physical Protection:** Avoid the use of **abrasive tools** such as steel wool, wire brushes, or any sharp metallic scrapers. These will permanently scratch or compromise the protective surface layer of the stone.
- **Stain Removal:** For localized spills, blot immediately with a damp cloth. Do not allow contaminants to sit on the surface for extended periods.

NEED HELP?

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