

# Installation and Fitting Guidelines

These guidelines are designed to be followed on all installations of Wild Stone products as part of the warranty agreement. Any deviations from this guidance may void your warranty. If you are unsure of any aspect of this guidance you should contact Wild Stone UK directly to discuss your requirements.

## 1. Substrate Preparation

- Concrete.
- Concrete block (bare block is preferable, but cement scratch coat is acceptable if structurally sound).
- Brick (concrete/clay).
- Cement based building board.

N.B. Substrates must be structurally sound, and capable of supporting the loads associated with the relevant Wild Stone product range chosen.

- If using cement based building board, ensure compliance with the relevant fitting guidelines.

## 2. Preparation & Handling

- 2.0 Appropriate care must be taken when transporting, lifting, and handling Wild Stone products and Wild Stone Adhesive.
- Rough handling, heavy impact and friction can cause breakage or weakness in Wild Stone products.
  - Wild Stone products should NOT be laid, stacked, or transported on their side. Personal protection equipment must be worn.
- 2.1 The following equipment will be required during fitting:
- Slow speed mixer (or appropriate drill & mixing paddle) a large mixing bucket.
  - Stone cutting water cooled table saw (or angle grinder with appropriate diamond blade) 12mm notched trowel.
  - Pointing trowel.
  - Rubber mallet.
  - Spirit level drill.
  - Appropriate personal protection equipment (e.g. gloves, goggles, dust mask, safety boots etc.).

- 2.2 The substrate should be structurally sound, clean, and free from anything which would inhibit full bond and adhesion between the surface and Wild Stone adhesive e.g. dust, dirt, loose particles, release agents, concrete sealers, curing compounds, paint etc. If the substrates surface is smooth, scuff to create a good key.
- 2.3 Ensure the temperature of the substrate, and atmosphere, is between 5–32°C. If the potential exists for frost, or a temperature drop below 5°C during curing, adequate protection should be provided. The moisture content of the substrate should be between 5–10%. Either dampen the substrate or allow to dry until the constant optimum moisture content has been achieved.

N.B. A temporary straight edge is necessary to support the Wild Stone panel products during the adhesive curing period. Securely fix a straight edge to the substrate at the level you wish to begin fitting Wild Stone panel from. If starting at a level below the DPC, ensure the Wild Stone panel does not 'bridge' the DPC. If necessary, stop the Wild Stone panel just below DPC level, and begin fitting again just above it. The straight edge should be perfectly level, clean and able to bear the associated weight.

2.4 Where grouting is required, we recommend 'Wild Stone SH' grout is used in conjunction with the Wild Stone grouting bag. Cut the tip of the bag according to the thickness of the joint. Fill the bag with grout and close by twisting the end of the bag. This twisting motion also gradually extrudes the mixture into the joints. The amount of grout used, and the style of the joint is dependent on the desired effect.

The minimum recommended amount is to at least 2/3 of the tile thickness. Once the grout has partially set (about 2–3 hours) remove excess grout with a metal brush, wooden block or similar. Then use the brush to clear the stone off any excess residue.

## 3. Installation & Fitting

3.0 Mix Wild Stone adhesive as per instructions on bag. Only use Wild Stone Masonry Installation System adhesive.

3.1 Always begin by fitting Wild Stone products to corners, working 'inwards' until the panels meet, or towards a wall end.

- Only apply adhesive to an area of substrate which can be covered by Wild Stone panel within the open time (i.e. before the adhesive surface has started to harden or 'skin over'). This open time is normally 15–20 minutes but can be reduced depending on atmospheric conditions.
- Apply Wild Stone adhesive to a workable area of the substrate using the straight side of the notched trowel.
- The adhesive must be thoroughly worked into the substrate to ensure maximum bond.
- A further coat of adhesive should immediately be combed on top using the 12mm notched side of the trowel.
- The beads, or ribs, of adhesive, applied with the notched trowel to the substrate, must all follow the same direction.
- 100% coverage of the area and full bond between adhesive layers are essential.
- Do not 'dot and dab' when applying adhesive, as insufficient coverage will create air pockets and weakness.

3.2 Using the adhesive application method described in 3.1, apply a full, level, bed of adhesive to the back of the panel using the flat side of the trowel.

- If being fitted to a flat surface, it is important that the back of the projecting stones to the staggered ends of each panel are fully covered to maintain the stones structural integrity.

N.B. 100% adhesive coverage and full bond is essential to comply with the Wild Stone Warranty.

3.3 Place the Wild Stone product into position against the substrate. It is essential that the product is pressed firmly against the substrate. Enough pressure should be applied to ensure the layers of adhesive on the back of the panel and the substrate become a single fully combined layer.

- All adhesive beads created with the notched trowel should be fully collapsed, leaving no gaps or air pockets. Gentle use of a rubber mallet or a diagonal pressing movement can be useful methods when presenting panels to substrate. Do not use a claw or lump hammer, as this will damage the panel.
- It is important that the panels are presented to the substrate quickly before the layers of adhesive have started to 'skin over'. If a skin is allowed to form on any, or both, adhesive layers, this will result in a weak and unacceptable bond.
- Repeat this process, to fit horizontally across the row.

N.B. Wild Stone panel forms should be interlocked tightly together. Remove any cement droplets on the edge of panels which could prevent a tight joint. Clean off any excess adhesive or spillages immediately.

3.4 Using a long spirit level, check regularly to make sure all the panels/veneers in the row are level, adjusting if necessary. Periodically check fitting and bond quality by removing a panel and inspecting adhesive transfer and bond. There should be no evidence of poor adhesive transfer or gaps in adhesive coverage, and no indication of adhesive layers or trowel marks should be present. 100% coverage and full bond are essential.

- When finishing a row, it is likely a Wild Stone panel or veneer will need to be cut to length. We recommend that when cutting a panel, the staggered joint shape is maintained. Cutting can be carried out using a static blade water-cooled stone cutting table saw, or an angle grinder with appropriate diamond blade.
- When using a non-static blade, slight movements can cause high torsion forces. Occasionally this force can result in a stone being dislodged when cutting. This can be rectified by fixing the stone back into place using a full bed of Wild Stone adhesive or high-quality polymer adhesive such as Xcel UBS.
- This fitting process is repeated on all subsequent rows.

3.5 Use different sized Wild Stone panels (Project Pack) or rotate Wild Stone Quoins (pre-formed corners), when forming the corners of each row.

Good Practice Tip: It is normal for natural stone to vary slightly in shade and colour therefore, to achieve a mix of shades on the wall, select panels randomly from various boxes and crates during fitting.

- Ensure the vertical joints on each row are staggered, and horizontal joints are clean and tightly fitted.

3.6 We recommend that Wild Stone Stainless Steel Clips are used, in conjunction with Wild Stone adhesive, to areas where panel forms are fitted above 3m from ground level. In areas of high exposure, or where extreme weather conditions are expected, please contact your local supplier, and request technical advice.

- Where Wild Stone Stainless Steel Clip use is required, create a slot in the top of the panel to receive the bottom 'lip' of the clip.
- The slot should be approx. 3mm wide x 20mm in depth and length.
- The slot should be positioned, allowing for adhesive, to ensure the clip is in full contact with substrate.
- A 3mm recess must be made behind the slot to allow the clips to sit below the top of the panel. When in position, the clip is securely fixed to the substrate using the stainless-steel fixings provided.
- The panel being fitted directly above the clips will require a slot on the bottom edge, positioned to receive the top 'lip' of the clip. This process is repeated as required.

3.7 Expansion joints/gaps in the substrate must be carried through both the layer of Wild Stone Adhesive and Wild Stone Stone Panel.

- Ensure that adhesive is only applied up to the edge of the expansion joint, and not over it.
- Cut the Wild Stone panel to length, ensuring that it stops at the edge of the expansion joint. The expansion gap must be filled with an appropriate joint filler.
- Where Wild Stone panel abuts a render system, or differing cladding material, an appropriate weather tight movement joint should be used, allowing for expected differential movement.

## 4. Cleaning, Sealing & Waterproofing

- 4.0 If cleaning or sealing is required, a full range of high-quality Wild Stone water based, breathable, low VOC products are available. (Exposure to, or inhalation of, VOCs—Volatile Organic Compounds may pose a risk to health).
- We strongly recommend the use of sealers on our Wild Stone Contemporary range. Sealing can help protect stone against staining and ease cleaning.
  - If Wild Stone stone panel and adhesive will be subject to permanently wet conditions, or if a waterproofing membrane is required, a range of quickly applied, quality products are available. For advice, please contact Wild Stone UK directly.

## 5. Technical Information & Warranty

- 5.0 If further advice or technical information is required, please speak to your local Wild Stone supplier, or visit our website [www.wild-stone.co.uk](http://www.wild-stone.co.uk)
- 5.1 Your purchase, and project, must be registered to qualify for the Wild Stone System Warranty. To register your project please visit [www.wild-stone.co.uk](http://www.wild-stone.co.uk).

**IMPORTANT:** Wild Stone UK is not responsible for any workmanship which is not carried out in full accordance with these Fitting Guidelines, our Technical Data Sheets, Local Industry Standard Guidelines, and Codes Of Practice.