Brick installation.

Instructions :

Carefully read the instructions.
Installation instructions must be followed for warranty purposes and for optimal performance.
Always refer to and follow your local Building Codes.
Make sure that the application of products and the structure they are being applied to are suitable.
If you have any doubt, get professional assistance.

Handling and storage.
absolutelystone® panels should be handled and transported on their original pallet and in their original packaging
until they are installed.

Material requirement:

Panels.
Flat panel (FP) boxes contain 8 panels numbered and marked on the backside from 1 to 4 and have a 1.69 sq.ft. coverage . They all have a pattern distinct from each other.
Corner panels have also a pattern distinct from each other and are packaged in a box of 8. Each corner panel is 22" tall and covers exactly an area of 1.37sq.ft.
To find out how many panels are required to cover a wall area.
1.- Multiply the height by the width in feet.
2.- Subtract the area not covered by panels (doors, windows) etc.
3.- Divide the result by 1.69 and that will be the number of panels required.
If corner panels are required, divide the height in inches by 22 and the result will be the number of corner panels required..
Once you have figured out the amount of panels required, you should add to your total a 4% factor for scrap.

Fasteners
Each panel should be installed with 4 screws.
Each 10fl. Oz. glue cartridge will adhere approximately 4 to 5 panels.
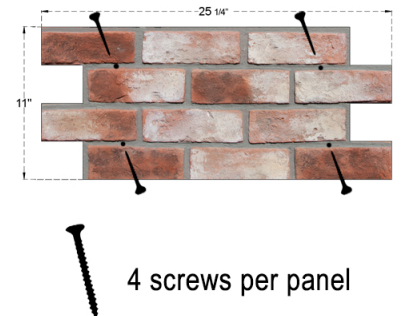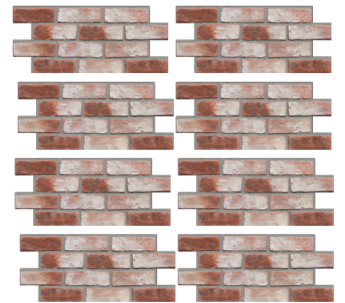
4 screws per panel

Starter strip
Measure your base wall width to determine how many pieces are needed. Our recommendation is to use a commercial J channel available at your local Home Depot Store (Clarkwestern #66SF casing 7/8"x 10').
Caulking
Each10fl.cartridge should be enough to seal and repair approximately 12 panels.
Color Touch up Kit
Depending on the amount of cuts performed,1 Kit should be enough to touch up 400 panels.

Tools and Safety equipment required for the installation.

Hacksaw with carbide-tipped blade, 7" minimum wet tile saw tilting table, measuring tape, 4ft.level, chalk line, nylon brush, caulking gun, paint brush, pencil, 36 grit sandpaper, drill and electric screwdriver.

The use of high-speed cutters or grinders on cement composite material produces dust. Always wear safety eye protection glasses and a dust mask (NIOSH approved N 95 filtering face piece disposable respirator), gloves, earplugs, safety boot (steel-toe reinforced) and a construction hard hat.

Installing options.

According to the substrate upon which you want to affix the panels, use the method best suited for your project:

Option 1.- Screws only.
Wood, plywood, OSB.

Option 2.- Screws + Adhesive.
Wood , drywall, concrete, brick, block, metal, corrugated steel.

Option 3.- Adhesive only.
Concrete, brick, block, metal.

Screws:
Size #8, buggle head Corrosion-resistant and must be able to penetrate not less than 3/4" into framing or furring.

Recommended adhesives.

Loctite® PL® Premium® Polyurethane Construction Adhesive.
Read manufacturers adhesive product Technical Data sheet before installing.

Before installing:

Inspect the area of installation.

Wood construction:
Verify that framing has been done 16" on center and that the sheathing material is minimum 7⁄16" OSB or minimum 1/2" plywood. Make sure that an approved water resistive barrier have been installed according to local codes (some codes demand 2 layers) and that all walls are square and plumbed.
Other construction (concrete, brick, block, metal, corrugated steel).
Make sure the surface you are installing on is level, sturdy, clean and dry.
Clean and remove old plaster, scrape away paint or wall paper, fix surface damage, level plaster and do not glue or screw onto unstable support.
The consistency of the surface and its appropriateness to install the panels is your responsibility.

Installation:

Mark the first Level line on the wall with your chalk line 4" above grade and then every 2ft. up as a reference to maintain a level course.
Keep in mind that absolutelystone® panels are designed to be easily installed. Panels are numbered according to a specific installation method and the best way to assemble them is following our instructions. Doing so will allow you to achieve the best look possible.
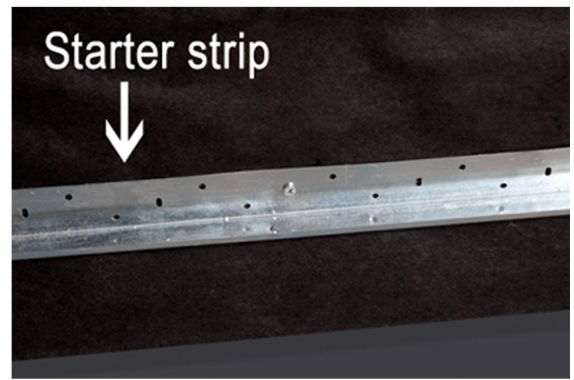Stone panels are installed from bottom to top.
Flat panels (FP) or combined with corner panels (L and R) should be installed always in sequence 1-2-3-4-1-2-3-4-1 etc.
As your starter strip is not perforated, drill 3/8" drain holes every 6" in bottom before installing it.
Fasten the starter strip perfectly leveled with screws or nails every 10".
Lap the (WRB) Water Resistive Barrier over the starter strip flange.
Start with positioning and fastening a cut panel as a starter panel on beginning of installation course into the leveled starter strip (Ex. FP2) then proceed to fasten the second panel (FP3) then the third panel FP4, then FP1, etc.
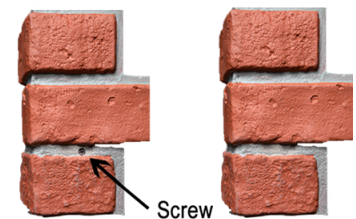
Installation when corner panels are required.
Start with a corner panel and insert it into the leveled starter strip at the bottom corner of the wall.
Pre- drilling of the panel is not mandatory but it is highly suggested for the first course since it has to be installed perfectly plumbed and leveled and also will need to be tighten and loosen for proper adjustment with the 2 adjoining flat panels.
Do not tighten the first screw in case further adjustment is required . Make sure that the panel is perfectly leveled and plumbed, then in the starter strip on the right side of the corner, place a flat panel (FP2 for example) adjacent to the corner and fasten it. Then move to the other side of the corner and fasten a flat panel (FP4 for example) If the alignment, plumb and level are adequate, tighten the corner piece and keep installing flat panels on both sides of the wall to complete the first course taking into account that after FP4 goes FP1 and then FP 2 etc., on the Left side from Right to Left goes FP4 , FP3, FP2, etc.
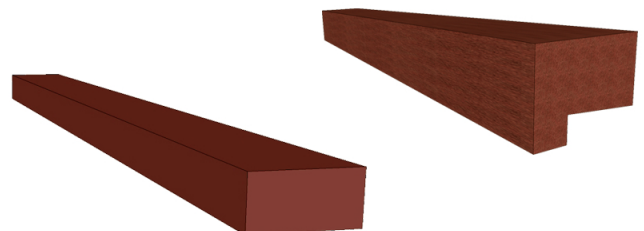Proceed the same way with the second course and check level reference every 2- rows for a correct alignment.

Installation of wainscot cap.
Position the wainscot cap on top of course and secure it with screws where screw marks are indicated. Pre drilling and use of adhesive is recommended. Cover the screws with caulking and touch up material.

Installation of Finishing trim.
Position the finishing trim in the required position (vertical or horizontal) and secure it with screws where screw marks are indicated. Pre drilling and use of adhesive is recommended. Cover the screws with caulking and touch up material.

Recommendations:

Keep the panels clean during installation. If you get adhesive on any panel face, remove immediately with water. Do not use acid or acid based products. For exterior installation, it is recommended that caulking be applied between the panels to provide a proper moisture seal. Use a wet grout sponge to clean off in case of excess caulking.

Stone finish caulking should be used to cover exposed material, screw holes, damaged panels, etc. You can use your finger to smooth and distribute the caulking or use a small brush to work it in place. Clean the excess caulking from the product with a moist sponge. After a product edge is cut or trimmed, use stone finish caulking or use our touch up kit to apply over the edge.

absolutelystone® panels must not be used below water level, such as in swimming pool. Chlorine and other cleaning chemicals might discolor our stone veneer, as well as areas vulnerable to slush formed by chemicals utilized to melt ice or snow. Install with a minimum of 4" above grade or pavement.

Our stone panels can be manufactured at different times and as they contain natural aggregates, we cannot guarantee that all panels will have identical colors and color shades. Variations can occur and enhance the natural appearance of the product. Remember when using more than one box, always select and mix panels from different boxes to achieve a balanced pattern of colors and textures.

Natural and manufactured stone products are both affected by weather and environmental influences, but there will be no effect on the technical performance of the product.

Applying sealer to the stones is not necessary, however it may be desirable for minimizing possible staining in certain applications where mud might splash onto the product or on fireplaces which are exposed to smoke. Make sure the stonework is completely dry and dirt free before applying any coating. Responsibility for the performance of any coating rests with the user and the manufacturer of the coating. Always read and follow the instructions of the coating product carefully.

It is highly recommended to always test a small area before applying to the total surface.

Absolutelystone® panels used in interiors should be cleaned with a brush and water and for exteriors with a water hose; the use of high pressure cleaning machines will shorten the life of sealers and impregnators. Chemicals containing acids or bleach must not be used; they will attack the material, damage the surface and discolor the finish.

The manufacturer has provided these suggested instructions as installation guidelines. The manufacturer, however, neither installs the panels nor has any control over the installation. It is the responsibility of the contractor and/or the installer to ensure panels are installed in accordance with these instructions and any applicable building codes. The manufacturer assumes no liability for either improper installation or personal injury resulting from improper use or installation.

absolutelystone® is the best alternative to natural stone.