Stone panels installation

Instructions:

Careful 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.

absolutelystone® panels are designed with a PVC 1" slotted nailing flange at the top to make it a breeze fastening the panels to walls.
Flat panel (FP) boxes contain 6 panels numbered and marked on the backside from 1 to 6. They all have a pattern distinct from each other.
Right and Left corner panels also have a pattern distinct from each other and are packaged in a box of 5 pieces, 5 Right corners (RCP) or 5 Left corners (LCP) and are marked on the backside R1-R2-R3-R4-R5. and L1-L2-L3-L4-L5.
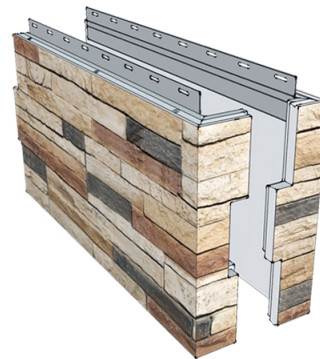To find out how may panels are required to cover a wall area.
1.- Multiply the height by the width in feet.
2.- Subtract the area not covered by panels (doors,Windows) etc.
3.- Divide the result by 2 and that will be the number of panels required.
In case corner panels are required, the wall height in feet equals the number of corner panels needed
Ex: 10 ft. height = 10 corner panels (5 Left + 5 Right) which have to be installed in an alternate manner.
Flat panels and Corner panels have a 2 sq.ft. exact surface coverage.
Once you have figured out the amount of panels required, you should add to your total a 4% factor for scrap.

Fasteners.

Panels should be installed with either nails, screws or staples.

Starter strips.

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 (Clark western #66SF casing 7/8"x 10').

Caulking material.

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.

Hacksaw with carbide-tipped blade, 7" minimum wet tile saw tilting table, electric drill, wood rasp, 36 grit sandpaper, measuring tape, 4ft.level, chalk line, nylon brush, caulking gun, paint brush, pencil. , and according to the fastening method employed: hammer or nailing gun, electric screwdriver or staple gun.

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 facepiece 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 install the panels, use the method best suited for your project:

Option 1.- Nails / Screws / Staples.
Wood, plywood, OSB.

Option 2.- Screws.
Drywall, brick, block, metal, corrugated steel.

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

Nails.
Use corrosion-resistant fasteners only, nail heads should be 5/16" minimum in diameter. Shank should be 1/8" in diameter and when fastening to structural sheathing, nail penetration must be at least ¾ " beyond the backside of the sheathing. Nails must be centered in the slot with approximately 1/32" space between the nail head and the nailing hem.
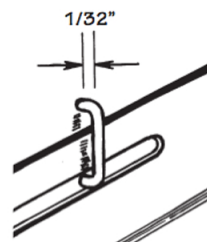
Screws.
Size #8, truss head Corrosion-resistant, self-tapping sheet metal type. Screws must be centered in the slot with approximately 1/32" space between the screw head and the nailing hem, and must be able to penetrate not less than 3/4" into framing.

Staples.
Use corrosion-resistant fasteners only, not be less than 16-gauge semi-flattened to an elliptical cross-section. Penetrate not less than 3/4" into framing and be wide enough in the crown to allow free movement of the siding flange (approximately 1/32 " away from the nailing hem).

Recommended adhesive.
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 .
absolutelystone® panels are numbered according to a specific installation method and the best way to install them and to achieve the best look possible is following these instructions.
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 1-2-3-4-5-6-1-2-3 etc.
Open boxes and lay out a quantity of panels close to the work area. This will help to achieve the proper layout and allow you to work faster and more efficiently.
As your starter strip is not perforated, drill 3/8" drain holes every 6" in bottom before installing it.
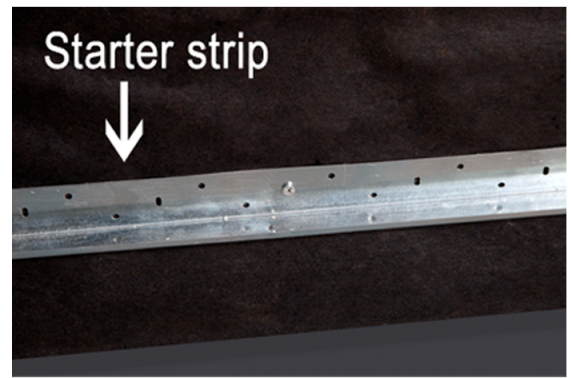Fasten the starter strip perfectly leveled with screws or nails every 10".
Lap the (WRB) water resistive barrier over the starter strip flange.

Installation without corners.
Start with positioning and fastening on one end a previously cut panel as a starter panel into the leveled starter strip (Ex. FP5) then proceed to fasten the second panel (FP6) then the third panel FP1, then FP2 etc. until you reach the other end and adjust the last panel. The piece left from the last cut panel can be used as a starter panel for the second course.

Installation with 1 corner.
Start with a corner panel (for example R1) and insert it into the leveled starter strip at the bottom corner of the wall. This panel has to be installed perfectly plumbed and leveled therefore don't tighten it too much since it will need to be tighten and loosen to get a proper adjustment with the 2 adjoining flat panels.

Starter strip

← WRB over flange

Make sure that the panel is perfectly leveled and plumbed, then in the starter strip on the right side of the R1 corner piece , place a flat panel (FP2) adjacent to the corner R1 and fasten it. Then move to the other side of the corner and fasten a flat panel (FP6). 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 FP6 goes FP 1 and then FP 2 etc., and that before the corner panel(R1) on the Left side from Right to Left goes FP6 , FP5, FP4 etc.
Proceed the same way with the second course using the Left corner Panel (L5) as a starter.

To achieve a complete staggered effect and to avoid vertical repetitions, a random width cut panel could be installed between the corner panel and the following panel on alternate rows.(for example : use the cut off part of the panel used in the starting row).
Check level reference every 2 rows for a correct alignment. If adjustments cuts are needed, measure and mark the panels from the backside with a pencil and proceed to cut the panel.

Installation with 2 corners.
Start with a corner panel from the left side (for example L1) and insert it into the leveled starter strip at the bottom corner of the wall. Keep installing the following panels FP2, FP3, FP4 etc. until you reach the other corner and cut the next to last panel (For ex.: Fp2) and adjust it to fit with corner panel R1.

Installation with inside corners.
In case installation requires an inside corner panel, the best achieved appearance is to mitter a panel with unequal sides at a 45° angle to form an inside corner. Use our touch up kit to cover any imperfection resulting from the cut.

Installation of wainscot cap.
Position the wainscot cap on top of top 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.

Installation of electrical and fixture trims.
Disconnect power and locate electrical boxes where trims are going to be installed. Cut panel (s) according to trim dimensions, Weatherproof the perimeter of the electrical box with flashing material and caulking. Use adhesive and screws to secure the trim in position and use touch up material to cover screw heads.