

Modular Panel Installation



SPECIAL CONSIDERATIONS FOR TIGHT-FITTING MODULAR INSTALLATIONS

Compared to other masonry installations where a grout joint is visible and surrounds each piece, tight fitting modular installations don't have a true grout joint reinforcement to lock in stone improving adherence. It is recommended to use a compliant Polymer Modified Mortar or bonding agent and proper installation techniques. A full, complete mortar setting bed is mandatory and will provide an effective seal behind and around the stone. Joint installations using regular type mortars don't experience such adherence deficiencies because the grout serves as an additional bonding area around the edges of each veneer piece and tends to lock each piece in place. Grout seals the area surrounding each veneer piece from water infiltration to the back of the veneer. If water collects in the voids behind the veneer and freezes expansive forces can cause the veneer to disengage.

SUMMARY

Choose the proper mortar. Standard type S or N Mortar is suitable for jointed grouted veneer. For a Modular type application use a polymer Modified Mortar complying with ANSI A118.4 or ANSI A118.15 Or equivalent, or a liquid bonding agent.

Ensure that wall bonding surfaces and back of the veneer are free of dust, laitance, loose concrete particles, and any film that could impede a bond.

When applying Type S or N mortar, wet the scratch coat and back of each veneer piece. Check the mortar manufacture's recommendations regarding "wetting" when using polymer modified mortar.

Mix mortar with proper amount of sand and water to form proper consistency for maximum adherence.

Completely butter each veneer piece, (½ ") and work firmly into place.

Ensure complete mortar setting bed coverage and full perimeter. "Squeeze out"

If necessary, use a mortar application method in which mortar is troweled onto the scratch coat and, also back buttered onto the veneer.

Do not dislodge previously installed veneer. Mortar bond may be compromised.

SET THE VENEER SECURELY

This cannot be emphasized enough- the veneer must be pressed firmly into the mortar setting bed, and onto the scratch coat and worked delicately back and forth with a slight rotating action. You must achieve mortar squeeze out in a volume that results in full mortar setting bed covering the scratch coat and the back of the veneer completely. Over "buttering" will also effect bond efficacy. Once the veneer has set it should not be dislodged or the bond may be compromised. Care should be taken to avoid inadvertent movement after the initial set, especially with tight fit installations where veneer pieces are intentionally touching each other.