

Guidelines to Follow BEFORE Installing

Important Note

The following installation instructions must be followed for warranty purposes and for optimal performance. The operator of any power tools or other tools should be skilled and familiar with the correct use of each tool. Proper safety gear must be worn at all times. Always study and follow all building codes adopted by federal, provincial, local or municipal governments or governmental authorities and applicable to the installation of SerenyStone™ products.

Made to be used as exterior siding, SerenyStone™ products are intended as wall coverings only and should not be used as pavers or subjected to foot traffic. SerenyStone™ products do not add to the structural load bearing capacity of the substrate to which it is applied. SerenyStone™ products are not to be used underwater. Avoid installing in locations which will be repeatedly subjected to abrasion, or repeated contact such as lawn mowers and string trimmers.

Product Handling and Storage

SerenyStone™ products are highly impact resistant once they are installed, but should be handled carefully to reduce damage prior to installation. Before and during installation, the products should be laid flat and kept out of direct sunlight or they may be susceptible to expansion and warping.

Product Colouring

Please ensure that all products from different batches and installed side-by-side have a consistent colour. Products from different batches will match up, but the installer should check product colours before installing. Also, there is the possibility for a panel to be slightly off-coloured in a batch. It is normal to find slight colour discrepancies from one product to another, just as you find with natural stones. Again, the installer should always check to ensure all panels match before installing.

Expansion and contraction

Polyurethane products will expand (heat) and contract (cold) according to climate change much like many other building materials. SerenyStone™ products have been designed to best adapt to these changes in temperature, but it is always best to install when panels have been acclimated (cool or contracted state) for at least 12 hours prior to installation. We recommend installing panels as tightly as possible with enough screws to minimize the visual appearance of expansion and contraction. Joints can be hidden with a silicone sealant that matches SerenyStone™ panel colours.

Panel Sizes and Models

SerenyStone™ panels are offered in two different sizes, either in 48" x 24" panels or 48" x 12" panels. Please note that only panels of the same height (12" or 24") can be installed side-by-side, which means two stacked panels of 12" cannot be installed next to a 24" panel. However, rows of different height panels can be stacked. For example, a row of 12" panels can be stacked over a row of 24" panels.

To achieve a cladding with the authentic look and feel of natural stone, panels have been developed in different models to avoid pattern and colour repetitions*. Thus, 48" x 24" panels have three (3) different models while 48" x 12" panels have six (6) in *Dry Stack Stone* and three (3) in *Ledgestone*. We recommend installing identical panels away from one another and staggering them to avoid pattern and colour repetitions, and to offer a perfectly natural result.

* Except for Charcoal panels as their colour is uniform.

Tools

Made of high density polyurethane, SerenyStone™ products are easy to install with basic woodworking tools: they can be cut, drilled, sanded and glued, just like wood. Recommended tools for the installation of SerenyStone™ products are: Chalk Line, Level, Pencil, Tape Measure, Hand Saw, Circular Saw, Drill/Screwdriver, Caulking Gun, Safety Glasses. The following tools are optional: Jig saw, table saw, hammer and file.

Types of Screws

Always use treated screws for exterior installations. Wood Substrate: Deck Screws. Concrete/Masonry Substrates: Concrete/Masonry Screws. Steel/Metal Substrates: Self-Tapping Metal Screws.

Types of Application Surfaces

Furring Strip Substrate: First apply a moisture barrier (Tyvek) before installing furring strips vertically or diagonally every 8" or less. Please use the Ventilated Starter Strip (R-BD-96V) for this application. Then install SerenyStone™ panels and fasten them with screws applied into the panel and framing (furring strips) following the instructions of the *Product Installation Steps*.

Masonry Substrate (brick, stone, concrete): To install SerenyStone™ panels on brick or stone, ensure the surface profile is as smooth and flat as possible. There are two options for masonry substrate. SerenyStone™ panels can be applied directly onto masonry by fastening panels with masonry screws (Tapcon) and following the instructions of the *Product Installation Steps*. A second option is to fasten furring strips

vertically or diagonally every 8" or less on the masonry (follow the instructions of the Furring Strip Substrate).

Product Installation Steps

Warning!!! In addition to fastening with screws, each SerenyStone™ product must be bonded with the PL Premium construction adhesive. The term "adhesive" is used to simplify this text. All surface areas must be clean, dry and free of dirt and loose materials.

- 1- **Starter Strip:** Make a line at the bottom of the wall to ensure a level installation. Allow at least 6" between the bottom edge of the siding and the ground. Install starter strips across the bottom of the wall and fasten with screws spaced every 8" or less. Cut starter strip if needed.
- 2- **Corner (if applicable):** Install corners from bottom to top. Apply adhesive to the backside of the corner and fasten with screws applied into tongue and base of the corner. A minimum of six (6) screws is required per 24" corner and ten (10) per 48" corner.
- 3- **Panel:** Install the first row of panels by securing them to the starter strip. *Dry Stack Stone* panels must be installed from left to right and by rows from bottom to top whereas *Ledgestone* panels must be installed from right to left and by rows from bottom to top. To cut panels, mark and cut from the flat backside to avoid damaging the paint on the surface. Apply adhesive to the backside of the panel so it adheres to the substrate: a line of adhesive with at least 8" spacing is enough. For applications on furring strip substrate, apply adhesive on the furring strip and then install the panel. The bottom row of panels sits on the starter strip. Apply a line of adhesive on the panel groove to secure it to the starter strip. Fasten with screws spaced every 8" or less in the top and side tongue of the panel. Also fasten the bottom of the panel with 3 or 4 screws along the nearest grout line and hide the screws with a colour matched caulk. Before installing the next panel, apply adhesive to the tongue (top and side) of the panel already fastened to the wall. This helps to conceal the joint in addition to bonding the panels together to ensure a water-tight barrier. For best results, stagger panels of each row so that a straight vertical seam is never formed. Always make sure panels are level before starting a new row of panels.
- 4- **Panel with Ledger for Half-Wall:** Calculate the total height of the half-wall. Cut the top row of panels and corners (if applicable) to the desired height, considering the height of the ledger (2 ¾"). To cut panels and corners, mark and cut them from the flat backside to avoid damaging the paint on the surface. Fasten panels and corners following the installation instructions (see Steps 2 and 3). Before installing ledgers, caulk the top of the panels on the top row with a colour matched caulking. Follow the installation instructions for ledgers in the next step (Step 5).
- 5- **Ledger:** Install ledgers from right to left. Apply two lines of adhesive to the backside of the ledger. Fasten through face of ledger with at least three (3) screws per 48" length. Once ledgers are installed, caulk the top with a colour matched caulking to seal properly and prevent water infiltration.
- 6- **Door and Window Moulding:** Apply two lines of adhesive to the backside of the moulding. Fasten through the face with at least five (5) screws for every 96" length. Once mouldings are installed, caulk every joint touching the frame of the door or window to prevent water infiltration. Use a caulk matching the colour of the moulding or the colour of the door or window frame.
- 7- **Finishing:** For a watertight wall, in addition to the adhesive applied to the tongue of the panels (step 3), use a colour matched caulk to cover edges where water could infiltrate such as between panels and accessories (ledgers, mouldings, etc.) as well as around openings like doors and windows. Also use a caulk to cover screw heads or other damage to the cladding (smaller than 1" x 1"). After applying the caulk, mark it gently with the tip of a small wet brush to give it the appearance of mortar. Apply SerenyStone™ touch-up paint on scratches, cracks or other minor surface damage. Ensure that all cut or damaged parts of the cladding (where polyurethane is exposed to sunlight or air) are camouflaged with silicone sealant or touch-up paint.
- 8- **Maintenance:** SerenyStone™ panels require minimal maintenance. Clean with water and soap using a soft bristle brush, then rinse with a garden hose. **Do not use a high-pressure washer, as this can damage any exterior product.**