

# ROGUE RIVER STONE INSTALLATION INSTRUCTIONS

## 1. Vapor Barrier

Nail up the vapor barrier using a staple hammer, making sure you over lap the paper on top over the paper on the bottom at least 3 inches. Also, make sure you do not have any tears in the paper. If you do you will need to repair them before putting up the wire lath.

## 2. Wire Lath

Nail up the wire lath using 1 1/4 inch roofing nails or lath roofing staples. You will need to place a nail about every 6 inches. Make sure you wrap around each outside corner at least 16 inches in both directions if possible. DOUBLE WRAP. This will help prevent cracking if settling occurs. It is not necessary to install wire lath or scratch coat over masonry walls such as brick, block or concrete as long as they are clean, and have not been painted, sealed or have chemicals on them. If there is something on the masonry wall that can not be removed, you may use the wire lath and scratch coat. If you are installing stone over metal you will need to use the wire lath and vapor barrier.

## 3. Applying the Scratch Coat

You will use the same mortar for the scratch coat, the stone and the grout. Using a flat trowel, apply a coat of mortar over the wire lath. Make sure that you cover the wire lath so none can be seen. Use the notched side of the trowel to make lines horizontally through the mortar. This will help the stone bond better. Let this cure 48 hours before applying stone. This time may be shorter if it is hot weather or the installer is experienced and can achieve the correct bond.

## 4. Laying Out the Stone

You will want to lay out two or three boxes of stone to give you a good mixture of shapes, colors and sizes. You want to be careful not to get too many big ones together, small ones together or too many of the same color together. As you lay, step back and check for this often. Also, if you are laying stone with someone else, make sure that your mixture of sizes and colors is the same. Check each other out.

## 5. Applying the Stone

Most of our stone is laid from the top down. Laying from the top down can keep your stone cleaner. If you are drystacking the stone, as in our paneled profiles, you can lay from the bottom up. Apply about 1/2 inch of mortar to the back of the stone. Make sure that the entire back of the stone is covered. Press the stone in place, moving it from side to side to help insure a good bond. Make sure the mortar comes out from around the stone so you do not have any voids. If too much is coming out from around the stone you can adjust to avoid waste. You will want to clean off any extra mortar. This will make it easier for grouting later. If the weather is hot you may need to dampen the wall to help ensure a better bond. Keep your hands clean so the stone stays clean. The cleaner you stay now the easier it will be to clean later. If you do get mortar on the stone let it get firm before you remove it (see cleaning procedures). If you need to cut the stone you can use a carborundum or a diamond blade in a mason saw, a skillsaw, a tablesaw or a chopsaw.

## 6. Grouting

Make your mortar a little thinner than you had for laying. Cut about a 1/2 inch, angled hole in the grout bag. Put the mortar in the grout bag, it should run out a little when you do this. If none runs out, you may need to add more water. When you are filling the joints the mortar should come out easily. But, if the mortar is too wet, it will run out of the joints.

## 7. Finishing the Joints

After the grout has started to get firm you need to rake out the excess mortar and work the joints. This can be done with a jointing tool, a butter knife or even a piece of wood. You want to push mortar firmly into the joint, to avoid any areas where water might get behind the stone. Rake out any extra mortar to get the look that you want. Once you have done this, sweep the joints with a whiskbroom to finish them. When you are brushing make sure that the brush is not leaving marks in the mortar. If you are leaving brush marks, the joint is too wet to brush and needs to dry longer.

## 8. Cleaning the Stone

The stone can be cleaned with just water and a cleaning brush if done at the proper time. UngROUTED stone should be cleaned at the end of the day that it was laid or the first thing the next morning. If you wait, the mortar will set up harder and will not come off very easily. On hotter days you may want to clean at lunchtime. When cleaning an area that has been grouted, make sure the grout is set up enough so that it won't wash out when scrubbing: again, usually at the end of the day, the next morning, or more frequently if working on a hot day. Never scrub more than 70 to 80 square feet before rinsing. If plain water does not get it clean enough you can use white vinegar, inviro clean or a cleaner with a citric base in an 8 parts water to 1 part substance mixture. Do not use an acid based cleaner and do not power wash. Anytime you use a cleaner you need to wet the wall first to avoid streaking. Don not forget to rinse.

## 9. Sealing the Stone

It is not necessary to seal the stone. But sealing will help protect it in areas where it may get hit with a lot of rain, mud may get splashed on it, or around a real fireplace where soot and smoke may get on it. Sealing it will make it easier to clean. You must use a sealer that is Silane or Silicon based and that is a breathable sealer. It is recommended that you test the sealer on some extra stones before applying to the wall.