

### Simple Installation...Beautiful Results

#### Installing AirStone

##### What you'll need:

For INTERIOR applications:

- AirStone Interior Adhesive
- Putty knife
- Hacksaw

For EXTERIOR applications:

- Loctite® PL Premium Polyurethane Construction Adhesive\*
- Caulk gun
- Gloves
- Hacksaw

\*Thinset may also be used.

##### Preparation

- Scrape off any tabs or bumps **from the sides** of the stone.
- Do not sand the back of the AirStones; the dust will impair adhesion.
- The wall surface must be flat, smooth, clean, free of dust, grease, oil, loose paint/wallpaper or foreign matter.
- Read and follow the adhesive instructions on the container.
- For interiors, acclimate stones and adhesive to room temperature 24 hours before installing.

##### Installation

- Start at ground level and work horizontally. Make sure the first row is level, for it will be the foundation for all rows above it. If the wall has a corner, we recommend starting with the corner pieces (so any cut pieces will be at the end of the wall).
- Apply an adequate amount of adhesive onto the back of the stone.
  - **Interiors:** Smear a generous amount of adhesive along the entire lower back of the stone (think icing a cupcake, not buttering toast). Press stone firmly and evenly to the wall, allowing adhesive to compress upward across the entire back of the stone.
  - **Exteriors:** Apply a ½" continuous bead of Loctite along the length of a 2" wide stone (double the amount for a 4" wide stone). In regions with above average freeze/thaw cycles, more adhesive is necessary. Press firmly and evenly onto the wall, allowing the adhesive to compress.
- Cure time = 24-48 hours.

##### Cutting

- A common hacksaw or a power saw can be used.
- Start sawing on the face of the stone, not the back side.
- When using a hacksaw, start sawing with the blade parallel to the stone face. A new hacksaw blade significantly improves cutting speed and quality.
- Hide cut edges by positioning the cut edge so that it cannot be seen.
- Be sure that the back of the stone is free of saw dust, otherwise the adhesive will not adhere.
- If using a wet saw, be sure that stone is totally dry before applying AirStone Adhesive.

##### Clean-Up

- AirStone Adhesive: warm water
- Loctite® PL Premium Adhesive: mineral spirits

#### Applying onto Various Substrates

**1<sup>st</sup> rule of thumb:** If humidity, temperature, or other factors cause the substrate to expand, contract, flex or bow, then the substrate is not an approved backing for AirStone.

**2<sup>nd</sup> rule of thumb:** If the wall is exposed to moisture – even if it is an interior wall -- use Loctite PL Premium Polyurethane Adhesive.

**3<sup>rd</sup> rule of thumb:** Water will penetrate between the seams of the AirStones, so when installing outdoors or in areas exposed to water, install only on a surface that is impermeable to water, and always install according to applicable building codes.

##### Some common substrates:

- **Brick, Ceramic Tile, Stone Tile, Stucco, Cement Board, Concrete Block:** Approved substrates
- **Drywall:** Approved interior substrate
- **Water- or oil-based painted drywall (excluding enameled):** Approved interior substrate. Score oil-based painted wall prior to installation.
- **Wallpapered drywall:** Wallpaper can separate from the wall, and therefore should be removed before applying AirStone.
- **Plywood / OSB / Particle Board:**
  - Outdoors: Not approved.
  - Indoors: Use discretion, i.e., when exposed to temperature and humidity change, these substrates can flex, bow, expand or contract, and therefore may not be stable as a backing for adhesives. This is particularly a problem on backsplashes, in shower areas, etc. This movement is less of an issue if the room has a consistent temperature, low humidity/moisture and secured by screws onto studs.
- **Composite (plastic) lumber:** Not approved
- **Ceilings and floors:** Not approved

*Airstone has been shown to adhere to the approved substrates listed above if properly installed. All possible substrates can not be listed. Substrate conditions, temperature, humidity, dust and many other factors affect adhesion, and Airstone's manufacturer, distributors and retailers shall not be liable if AirStone does not adhere to a specific substrate. The adhesive product used (other than AirStone Adhesive), the substrate, the method of adhesion, and the adherence to a specific substrate shall be the sole decision, and responsibility, of the customer.*

##### Helpful hints

- Alternate piece sizes to break up the vertical seams
- Minimize seams by snugly fitting together the pieces.
- Flip/flop the corner pieces to utilize the various-sized legs.
- When hanging artwork, etc., proper anchoring to the supporting wall is necessary. Use a drill, not a hammer and nail.
- **Backsplashes:** Just like natural stone, grease will stain AirStone. For areas directly exposed to cooking splatter, a high-quality sealant designed for porous stone or concrete may be used, however, we cannot guarantee the effectiveness of various sealants.

**AirStone has a "Class A" fire rating and is safe to use around typical fireplaces.**

*Mandatory Warning: This product contains a chemical known to the State of California to cause cancer. This chemical, crystalline silica, is a component of cement. Cement is an ingredient of AirStone. Do not eat AirStone. When sawing AirStone, provide for adequate ventilation, dust suppression, or controls to keep airborne silica levels below the PEL (Permissible Exposure Limit). A NIOSH approved N-95 Series mask is recommended when cutting AirStone with a power saw.*

**For video installation tips, visit: [www.airstone.com](http://www.airstone.com)**