

Two Ways to Install AirStone®

AirStone® is designed to be versatile. Depending on the type of project, AirStone® can be installed using either:

1. The AirStone® Direct-Adhesive Installation System

This is the lightweight, DIY-friendly AirStone® installation method that made AirStone® famous. In many applications, AirStone® can simply be adhered directly to the surface using adhesive — no metal lath, scratch coat, or masonry experience required.

Perfect for:

Interiors

- Accent walls
- Kitchen backsplashes
- Fireplace surrounds
- Basement walls
- Entertainment areas

Outdoor Projects

- Outdoor kitchens
 - Retaining walls
 - Mailboxes
 - Columns
 - Patio walls
 - Pool areas
 - Concrete foundations
 - Brick, block, stucco, and other already-weatherproof surfaces
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2. The AirStone® Full Exterior Veneer Installation System

Required when AirStone® becomes part of the home's exterior weather-protection wall system — not simply adhered onto an already weatherproof surface.

These applications typically include:

- Full-home exterior cladding
- Exterior wall systems
- New construction
- Exterior renovations involving wall assemblies exposed to weather and moisture intrusion

Unlike the AirStone® Direct-Adhesive Installation System, these applications require a complete exterior wall assembly designed to properly manage:

- Water intrusion
- Drainage
- Moisture movement
- Long-term structural performance

These installations commonly involve:

- Wall sheathing
- Weather-resistant barriers
- Flashing
- Drainage systems
- Metal lath
- Mortar scratch coats
- Other code-compliant wall assembly components

This installation method follows commonly accepted adhered manufactured stone veneer installation practices, including guidance from organizations such as:

- Masonry Veneer Manufacturers Association
- National Concrete Masonry Association
- ASTM International

and applicable building code requirements.

1. AirStone® Direct-Adhesive Installation System

Easy, Lightweight & DIY Friendly

One of the reasons homeowners love AirStone® is because many projects do not require complicated masonry installation methods.

For interior surfaces and already-weatherproof exterior surfaces, AirStone® can often be installed simply by applying adhesive to the back of the stone and pressing it into place.

No mortar mixing.

No metal lath.

No scratch coat.

No special masonry tools required.

AirStone® was specifically designed to make beautiful stone projects achievable for everyday homeowners and DIYers.

Common Direct-Adhesive Applications

Interior Projects

AirStone® is ideal for:

- Accent walls
- Fireplace surrounds
- Kitchen backsplashes
- Basement walls
- Bar areas
- Entertainment walls
- Laundry rooms
- Mudrooms

Outdoor Projects on Already-Weatherproof Surfaces or Structures Unattached to the Home

AirStone® is also ideal for:

- Concrete foundations
- Brick walls
- Concrete block
- Stucco

- Outdoor kitchens
- Landscape walls
- Pool areas
- Columns
- Patio walls
- Mailboxes
- Retaining walls

Approved Direct-Adhesive Substrates

Typical approved substrates include:

- Drywall
- Brick
- Tile
- Stone
- Stucco
- Cement board
- Concrete block
- Concrete
- Glass
- Metal
- Wood*

If the substrate is painted, the paint must be in good condition with no peeling, flaking, or instability.

***Note Regarding Wood**

AirStone® Interior Adhesive is water-based. Some wood products — particularly pressboard or engineered wood products — may absorb moisture and move, which can affect adhesion.

Solid hardwood is generally suitable. Always test first.

For surfaces exposed to water, a polyurethane construction adhesive such as Loctite PL Premium 3X is recommended.

Basic Direct-Adhesive Installation Steps

Step 1 — Prepare the Surface

The surface should be:

- Clean
- Dry

- Structurally sound
- Free from dust, grease, or loose material

Step 2 — Apply Adhesive

Apply adhesive to the back of the AirStone® unit.

Think:

“icing a cupcake, not buttering toast.”

Use enough adhesive to create a strong bond across the back of the stone.

Step 3 — Press Into Place

Firmly press the AirStone® unit onto the wall.

Slightly wiggle the stone while pressing to improve contact and adhesion.

Step 4 — Continue the Pattern

Continue installing stones while blending sizes and shapes for a natural appearance.

Periodically step back and view the wall from a distance to maintain visual balance.

Important Direct-Adhesive Limitation

The AirStone® Direct-Adhesive Installation System is intended for:

- interior applications, or
- exterior surfaces that are already properly weatherproofed and structurally suitable.

AirStone® itself is not intended to serve as the primary waterproof barrier of a wall system.

If AirStone® will become part of the home’s primary exterior wall system — not simply adhered onto an already weatherproof surface — the AirStone® Full Exterior Veneer Installation System is required.

Do not use AirStone on ceilings or weight-bearing horizontal surfaces

2. AirStone® Full Exterior Veneer Installation System

For Exterior Walls That Are Part of the Home's Weather Protection System — not simply adhered onto an already weatherproof surface

When AirStone® is installed as part of an exterior wall assembly that protects the home from weather and moisture intrusion, the installation must follow commonly accepted adhered manufactured stone veneer installation practices and applicable local building codes.

These applications typically involve:

- Wall sheathing
- Weather-resistant barriers
- Flashing
- Drainage systems
- Metal lath
- Mortar scratch coats
- Other exterior wall assembly components

Unlike the AirStone® Direct-Adhesive Installation System, these installations require a complete wall assembly designed to properly manage water, drainage, moisture movement, and long-term structural performance.

AirStone® itself is not intended to function as the primary waterproof barrier of a wall system.

Industry Standards & Code Compliance

AirStone® exterior wall-system installations should follow:

- Applicable local building codes
- Manufacturer installation instructions
- Accepted adhered manufactured stone veneer installation practices
- Applicable ASTM standards
- Applicable flashing and water-management requirements

These practices are commonly associated with guidance published by organizations such as:

- Masonry Veneer Manufacturers Association
- National Concrete Masonry Association
- ASTM International

including commonly referenced standards such as ASTM C1780 and ASTM C1670.

Building codes and installation requirements may vary by location. The installer, contractor, architect, engineer, and/or project designer is responsible for determining the suitability of the installation and compliance with all applicable local building codes, regulations, and project requirements.

BEFORE YOU BEGIN

Verify the Wall Assembly

Exterior wall-system installations must only be performed over structurally sound wall assemblies capable of supporting adhered manufactured stone veneer.

Typical wall assemblies may include:

- Wood framing
- Steel framing
- Exterior sheathing
- Weather-resistant barriers
- Flashing systems
- Metal lath
- Mortar scratch coats

AirStone® should never be adhered directly to:

- Bare OSB
- Bare plywood
- Housewrap alone
- Foam insulation alone
- Vinyl siding
- Aluminum siding
- Flexible surfaces
- Water-damaged surfaces

The complete wall assembly — not just the stone itself — is responsible for proper water management and long-term system performance.

Structural movement, settling, substrate deflection, improper wall construction, or building movement may result in cracking, separation, or adhesion failure.

STEP 1 — INSTALL WEATHER-RESISTANT BARRIER (WRB)

Install a code-compliant weather-resistant barrier over the exterior sheathing.

The WRB should:

- Be installed in shingle fashion
- Properly overlap seams
- Integrate with flashing details
- Maintain drainage continuity throughout the wall assembly

Penetrations, transitions, windows, doors, roofs, decks, and other interruptions must be properly flashed and sealed.

Proper water management is critical to long-term wall performance.

STEP 2 — INSTALL FLASHING & DRAINAGE COMPONENTS

Install corrosion-resistant flashing and drainage components in accordance with applicable code requirements and accepted building practices.

Typical flashing locations include:

- Windows
- Doors
- Roof intersections
- Deck connections
- Horizontal transitions
- Wall penetrations

Install a weep screed at the base of wall-system installations where required.

Maintain proper clearances above:

- Grade
- Soil
- Paved surfaces
- Roofing materials

Proper flashing, drainage detailing, sealants, and moisture-management practices are the responsibility of the installer and/or project designer.

STEP 3 — INSTALL METAL LATH

Install corrosion-resistant expanded metal lath over the prepared wall assembly.

The lath should:

- Be securely fastened to framing members
- Be properly overlapped
- Be installed according to applicable code requirements and accepted installation practices

The lath should be tight and secure with minimal movement.

STEP 4 — APPLY THE SCRATCH COAT

Apply a mortar scratch coat over the metal lath.

The scratch coat should:

- Fully embed the lath
- Be applied to an appropriate thickness
- Be horizontally scored while workable to improve bond strength

Allow the scratch coat to properly cure before installing AirStone®.

Do not install AirStone® over uncured or unstable mortar surfaces.

STEP 5 — PLAN THE INSTALLATION

Before installation:

- Blend stones from multiple boxes
- Lay out patterns for visual balance
- Avoid repetitive placement patterns
- Install corner pieces first where applicable

Periodically step back and inspect the overall appearance during installation.

STEP 6 — PREPARE THE MORTAR

Use a mortar suitable for adhered manufactured stone veneer installations and approved for the intended application.

Follow mortar manufacturer instructions regarding:

- Mixing
- Working time
- Temperature limitations
- Cure requirements

Do not use mortar that has begun to set or harden.

Installation methods and material selections should be appropriate for local climate conditions, including freeze-thaw exposure where applicable.

STEP 7 — INSTALL AIRSTONE®

Apply mortar to the back of each AirStone® unit using a complete back-buttering method.

The mortar should sufficiently cover the back of the stone to promote proper adhesion.

Firmly press each AirStone® unit into the prepared scratch coat surface while slightly moving the stone to improve contact and bond strength.

During installation:

- Work from the bottom upward
- Frequently check alignment and level
- Remove excess mortar before hardening
- Maintain consistent joint spacing where applicable

Do not excessively slide or reposition stones after placement.

STEP 8 — COMPLETE JOINTS (IF APPLICABLE)

For installations utilizing mortar joints:

- Allow stones to stabilize before grouting
- Use a grout bag where appropriate

- Compact joints completely
- Tool joints after initial set

Avoid smearing mortar across the face of AirStone® whenever possible.

STEP 9 — CLEANING

After installation:

- Remove loose mortar with a soft brush
- Do not use acid cleaners
- Do not use wire brushes
- Do not use high-pressure washing methods that may damage the installation

If cleaning products are used, test first in an inconspicuous area.

STEP 10 — PROTECT & ALLOW TO CURE

Freshly installed veneer should be protected from:

- Freezing temperatures
- Heavy rain
- Rapid drying
- Excessive heat
- Physical disturbance during curing

Follow mortar manufacturer recommendations regarding curing conditions and temperature limitations.

IMPORTANT WATER MANAGEMENT NOTICE

AirStone® is part of a complete exterior wall assembly and is not intended to replace:

- Flashing
- Weather-resistant barriers
- Drainage systems
- Sealants
- Expansion detailing
- Proper construction practices

Improper water management may result in:

- Water intrusion
- Structural damage
- Mold or moisture issues
- Adhesion failure
- Cracking
- Reduced system performance

PROFESSIONAL INSTALLATION RECOMMENDED

Exterior wall-system veneer installations should be performed by qualified installers familiar with adhered manufactured stone veneer systems and applicable building code requirements.

WARRANTY & LIMITATION NOTICE

Failure to follow applicable building codes, accepted installation practices, manufacturer instructions, or proper wall assembly methods may void applicable warranties.

AirStone® is not responsible for failures caused by:

- Improper installation
- Improper flashing
- Improper drainage
- Structural movement
- Substrate failure
- Water intrusion
- Improper maintenance
- Use outside intended applications
- Failure to follow accepted construction practices

Do not use AirStone on ceilings or weight-bearing horizontal surfaces