



Installation Guidelines for Tier® Natural Stone Panelized System

Information included in these guidelines is intended for use with Tier® Natural Stone Panelized System distributed by CSI - All Things Stone (CSI). Please refer to your local building codes as specific requirements may vary by City, State/Province. **Be sure to check with local authorities for code requirements in your area before proceeding with your installation.**

Step by Step Guide

Preparation

Ensure all surfaces are structurally sound, between 40° F (4°C) and 90°F (32°C), and free from all dirt, oil, grease, paint and concrete sealers or curing compounds.

Note: *Only install Tier® products on the following suitable substrates*

- Traditional Unfinished Block Work
- Concrete (Scratch surface if very smooth)
- TIER® Building Board / Cement Building Board

Find the level of the first row of panels by dividing the height of the surface by 215 mm (the height of each TIER® panel). Until the adhesive has fully set the first row of TIER® panel will require temporary support. A straight edge (normally a timber lath) should be fixing to the substrate to provide support and a level starting guide.

Mixing the Adhesive

When ready, mix a manageable amount of TIER® Adhesive (Masonry Installation System MIS) by slowly adding TIER® adhesive to clean water at a ratio of 3kgs to 1 Litre of water (5 Litres of water to a 15kg Bag of TIER® adhesive). Mix with a slow speed mixer for one minute, or until a creamy, smooth consistency has been reached. Allow to slake for 5 minutes, remix and use. Only TIER® Adhesive (Masonry Installation System MIS) is recommended for use with TIER® MultiPack Panel Systems.

Note:

Cement based products will take longer to harden and set at lower temperatures and should not be used below 5oC.

Start at the corners — Spread the TIER® adhesive onto the substrate using the flat side of a notched trowel. Ensure 100% coverage. Comb on additional adhesive with the notched side of the trowel. Use a ¼" x ¾" (6 mm x 9 mm) or ½" x ½" (12 mm x 12 mm) notch or loop notch trowel. Apply TIER® adhesive to the back of the TIER® panels using the same process. It is essential that TIER® adhesive is applied to both the substrate and the back of the TIER® panels, and that 100% coverage is achieved.

Installation

Start at the corners and work inwards until panels meet. Place the adhesive covered TIER® panel in the desired position and press against the adhesive covered substrate. The gentle use of a rubber mallet may be helpful. Slide the panel approx. 1" (25 mm) in a diagonal direction and then back to the desired final position while maintaining even pressure. No air gaps between the TIER® panel and substrate should remain. Check for complete coverage by periodically removing a panel and inspecting the transfer of adhesive. Panels should be fitted tightly together. Small pieces of cement or adhesive can create gaps between panels, so ensure all panels are level and joints are thoroughly cleaned before fitting the next panel.

Note: *No grouting or jointing is required after fitting.*

Cutting

If cutting is required, we recommend the use of a table saw (preferable) or a suitable 9" grinder with the appropriate diamond blade. If a grinder is used, slight blade movement can create high torsion forces which may occasionally dislodge a stone from the cement backing. This is quite normal and the dislodged stone can simply be stuck back on using TIER® adhesive or, Xcel (UBS) Universal Bond and Seal Polymer Adhesive.

Note: We recommend that TIER® Stainless Steel fixing clips are used, in conjunction with TIER® adhesive, to areas of panel fitted above 3 metres from ground level.

Care & Maintenance

A range of TIER® Care & Maintenance products are available. Stone products which have been sealed may be easier to keep clean and maintain than unsealed stone.

Cleaning

Ensure the finished area is completely clean and free from dust and adhesive stains before sealing, use the TIER® Cleaner by diluting one part TIER Cleaner in 3 parts warm water. Apply liberally, spreading over surface of panels. If necessary agitate with a scrubbing brush. Leave to react for 5-10 minutes, keeping wet with additional solution. Agitate surface again, mop up and rinse thoroughly with clean water. In extremely severe cases use undiluted and agitate with scrubbing brush or mechanical scrubber if necessary. Neutralise treated surface with clean water after use.

Sealing

Ensure surface to be treated is completely clean, dry and free from dirt, grime, and adhesive.

Note: *Shake bottle before use.* Apply generously and evenly using a paint brush or sponge. On highly absorbent surfaces apply several coats wet-in-wet. After 15 minutes, remove any excess sealer with an absorbent cloth. Do not allow residues to dry on the surface.

Alternative Installation Method

Alternative Installation Method for TIER® Natural Stone Systems.

Ensure all surfaces are structurally sound, between 40° F (4°C) and 90°F (32°C), and free from all dirt, oil, grease, paint and concrete sealers or curing compounds. Apply 5 equally spaced vertical bead lines of Xcel UBS to the back of the stone panels. These should run 150mm from the top to the bottom of the panel. Install panels from bottom to top to avoid any slipping whilst the Xcel UBS adhesive is curing, ensure that panels are fitted with no joints. Push the panel firmly into place, interlocking it with any existing panels. The gentle use of a rubber mallet may be helpful.

To learn more about Tier® Natural Stone Panelized System and CSI - All Things Stone's other products, visit www.AllThingsStone.com or call **1.800.977.8663**.

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