

## INSTALLATION REQUIREMENTS

(Read Prior to Installation)

### 1. SURFACE REQUIREMENTS

EXTERIOR - Matted Flagstone sections are best installed over a concrete sub-base that is a minimum of 3.5 inches thick. Installation must comply with local building codes. Please refer to local building codes. The entire installation surface must be clean and flat, and free of sealants, grease or other oily compounds.

INTERIOR – Apply Durarock, Durock, Wonderboard, or Cement Board to plywood or install over a concrete sub-base. Installation must comply with local building codes. Please refer to local building codes. The entire installation surface must be clean and flat, and free of sealants, grease or other oily compounds.

### 2. DRY LAYOUT

For best results, and to ensure a fast, efficient installation, place the mats throughout the DRY installation area (USING NO MORTAR). This will show you how the entire area will be covered, as well as confirm that you have enough Matted Flagstone for your project. Consider numbering each section of Matted Flagstone using chalk or masking tape. This will help you remember exactly where each mat goes and how it fits together with the adjoining mats.

### 3. SPREADING MORTAR

Once you're ready to begin laying the mats in place, use a masonry trowel to spread an even layer of mortar or Ultra or Super Flex bonding agent—approximately 3/8 - inch thick. Spread the mortar out in an area that is slightly larger than the size of your first section of Flagstone Mats. In all instances it is best to butter the back of each stone before placing the mat. Please note that the mortar will begin to set (harden) in five to 10 minutes. Some applications might require adding an acrylic bonding agent to the mortar. For interior installations Thinsset Mortar may be substituted for Mortar.

### 4. SETTING THE FLAGSTONE

Set the Flagstone Mats (in the same position as your dry layout) and firmly press it into the mortar bed to ensure that the mesh backing is embedded and that there is a bond between the stone and mortar. If you encounter a low stone, simply remove that piece from the mat and add extra mortar to that area. Replace the stone in the same location with the added mortar and the stone will now be the same height as the others. Use a level or other straight edge to confirm a flat and uniform surface from piece of stone to the next. Gentle taps from a large rubber mallet will effectively take down any high points. Repeat steps #3 and #4 until you've covered all surfaces that do not require custom cutting/fitting along borders, walls or edges.

### 5. MAKING TEMPLATES

Where your Flagstone Mats will butt up against walls or other straight borders, it's helpful to create a template (using light cardboard or butcher paper) to show you the exact shape of the partial mat section needed to fill the void. Simply place a straight edge of your cardboard along the wall and trace the outline of the area to be filled with a partial mat section.

## INSTALLATION GUIDE | Mats

### 6. CUTTING MAT SECTIONS

Identify the section of a full mat that best fits the area to be filled. Use the template to draw the straight line (that corresponds with the wall) onto the section of mat that must be cut. Set the mat on top of a pressed board or plywood. Hold the stone firmly against the cutting surface. Cut the marked Matted Flagstone section using a circular saw fitted with a special masonry saw blade, tile saw, or wet saw. Spread the 3/8 - inch layer of mortar and set the newly cut mat section firmly in place (as in steps #3 and #4).

### 7. SEALANT

Realstone recommends that to ensure lasting beauty and to protect your stone against spills and stains, it may be recommended to seal the Realstone System surfaces. Sealants are available at your Realstone Systems dealer in either matte or gloss finish to meet your desired look.

### 8. INSTALLING GROUT

Allow the mortar beneath your newly-installed Matted Flagstone to dry for at least 24 hours before installing grout. Some mortar and weather conditions will require more time for the mortar to cure. Prepare your selected grout mixture according to the directions on the packaging. Work the grout into the spaces between each piece of natural stone and remove excess grout with a wet sponge, making sure no grout is left behind on the surface of the stone. Finished grouting should be level with the surface of the stone. Use a standard grout material, and be sure to ask your dealer for recommendations on grout color choices to match your stone.

### 9. CLEANING

After 36 hours, it is suggested to wet the stonework down with water and then apply a mild cleaning detergent with a soft bristle brush to remove any dirt or mortar smear left from the installation.

**DO NOT USE ANY TYPE OF ACID.**

\*Substrates and job conditions will vary greatly from site to site, therefore it is the responsibility of individual project engineers to review and approve the suitability of mechanical anchors (wall ties) and the structural integrity of surfaces to be veneered.

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