



Laying Stack a Stone Tiles

Laying Stack a Stone Tiles – A step-by-step guide

These quality tiles are relatively quick and easy to affix to a wall with a good quality neutral tile adhesive. There is no need for grouting.

Preparation

1. Determine how many Stack a Stone Tiles you will need for your project, by measuring your surface area to determine the square meterage required (ie. Length x Width). Once measured, allow yourself an additional 10% in tiles to cover breakages and offcuts.
2. Gather up the tools you require; including a quality brick or stile wet saw for angle cutting, a steel trowel, scraper, stiff wire brush, masonry brush, large sponge, Tiles and recommended neutralized tile adhesive. The recommended type of adhesive should be a high quality neutralized tile adhesive. It is critical to use only the specific adhesive recommended for wet areas, for water features or pool areas.
3. Clean your brick, masonry or block wall first. The wall surface must be clean and free of dust or dirt. Painted surfaces should be stripped of paint or paint etc. If you are using timber or steel frame, with fibrous cement board, ensure that it is strong and structurally sound.

Fixing the Vertical Pavers

4. Check the back of each tile to ensure it is free of dirt, sand, or loose particles. If necessary, wash them completely.
5. If the back of the panel is dry, dampen it first with a wet sponge, but do not saturate. This prevents the rock panel from pulling the moisture from the adhesive, allowing it to cure naturally and with a stronger bond. When installing in a dry climate or onto extremely dry surfaces, be sure to wet the stone and the wall first so they do not absorb moisture from the mortar. You can spray or apply water onto the back of the stone or dip it into water. Spray or brush water onto the wall as well. Allow both to dry for a few minutes to remove excess water

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6. Lay the stones out on the floor like a jig saw puzzle then pick which stones you want to put where. Remember to use plenty of contrast. Light against dark, big against small. Put the stones up with a nice variety to get a natural feel and a look.
7. When fixing the tile panels use a generous amount of recommended neutral tile adhesive and apply it to the back of each panel and to the wall. It is important to screed the tile adhesive on to the wall as would normally be the application method used for laying tiles. You must apply a generous amount of adhesive to the back of each panel and the wall surface to ensure maximum adhesion
8. Mix the appropriate tile adhesive to a creamy consistency for a minimum of 5 minutes or as per manufacturer's instructions.
9. Some useful tips for the laying process:
 - When fixing rock panels it is necessary to start from the bottom row on a level line to maintain a consistent level as you work up the wall
 - Ensure the panels rest on a secure base such as a concrete floor or footing to help carry the weight
 - The tile panels should be overlaid or offset so that a "brick pattern" starts to form, this looks best and helps eliminate vertical joint lines up the wall. The panels should not be "stacked" one on top of the other in a single line up the wall
 - Press each tile panel into the adhesive, rotating slightly, forcing some of the adhesive to squeeze out freely. Any adhesive forced out beyond the finished joint or on the panel surface itself must be removed before the adhesive is allowed to set. Remember tight joints will provide a neat appearance. Be sure not to allow any adhesive to harden on the face of the rock panels as this will help in the cleanup process.
 - Be sure to keep the work level as you go
 - Use a trowel edge, or other sharp blunt tool to trim stone. For straight cuts, use a diamond or masonry saw blade
 - Conceal trimmed edges with grouting or hide them by turning the cut side upward above eye level or downward below eye level
 - Avoid long sections of straight, unbroken grout lines in standard grout installations. Be sure to use a consistent joint width
 - If any mortar accidentally falls on the face of the stone during laying, do not wipe it off (as it will smear and discolour the stone). Instead, leave it until touch dry and then brush it away with a dry brush
 - Do not use wire brushes or acid on the stone surface

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Corners

When corners are required the procedure is fairly simple thanks to the availability of pre-prepared Stack a Stone corners.

Prior to laying the corner, double check the tile panel to make sure it forms a perfect 90° corner. The colour, the width and thickness of the stone pieces should match to form a continuous look that seems to "flow" around the corner, never use 2 different panels to form a corner, the result will be very disappointing, because the stone colour, texture and thickness will not match.

Cleaning the stone

Excess dirt and film may be removed using clean water and a stiff brush, it's important not to allow adhesive to dry on face of the rock panels. Remove it prior to it hardening.

WARNING: Do not use acid wash as it will stain the stone.

Sealing the stone

Natural Stone may be sealed with a good quality penetrating sealer only after thoroughly curing; allow four weeks after installation.

Follow the manufacturer's instructions on the application of sealer. Sealed stone may be easier to keep clean and maintain than unsealed stone and certain sealers also repel stains. However, sealers must be periodically reapplied, especially on exterior applications, and could alter the natural colouring of the stone.

For more information about our range of quality Stack a Stone products, please:

- visit us at www.tuscanpath.com.au
- Visit your nearest Bunnings store (our Range is available Australia wide)
 - Contact us on (03)8339 0250. We're always here to help!

Please Note: While we have taken every care to ensure the accuracy of this DIY information, Tuscan Path cannot be held responsible for any of the advice contained in our website and where appropriate we advise you to consult a professional.

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