Installation Guidelines

Pavers - Mortared

INSTALLATION

» Determine type of substructure. If a **masonry surface** is used, it should be clean and free of loose dirt, dust, or other elements. If a **wood structure** is used then the supporting framework must be rigid enough to prevent flexing of the area. A wood substructure is recommended for interior applications only. Install a vapor barrier of tar paper or other membrane over the wood subflooring.

» For both masonry and wood substructures, prepare a mortar mixture consisting of 3 parts sand to 1 part Portland II cement. Always measure ingredients to keep the mix consistent from one batch to another. Mix these ingredients dry.

» Add potable water and any other additives to the dry mix to create a damp mixture. Do not over saturate the mix, as it will cause the stone to float on a layer of water when set, causing an improper bond with the setting bed. Prepare a bond coat consisting of potable water or other desired liquid and straight cement powder to the consistency of cake batter.

» Apply the mortar bed bond coat to the slab. Lay out a layer of setting mortar no less than 3/4" thick for a masonry substructure and 1¼" minimum thickness for a wood substructure. Set a “test” stone and tamp down with a rubber mallet.

» Pick the stone back up at the edges and check the back of the stone for coverage. Mortar should cover 95% of the surface area. After achieving the desired coverage, sprinkle the setting bed with water. Do not over saturate the bed. Dust the surface of the setting bed with a fine layer of dry Portland cement.

» Coat the back of each stone with the bond coat consisting of water and straight Portland cement and then add potable water until the mix is similar to the consistency of cake icing. This mix will be used to create suction between the stone and the masonry structure and will hold the stone in place until the mortar cures. Pack the mortar under the edges of the stone to leave no voids. Make sure to create an expansion joint in the stonework at the same area where there are expansion joints in the masonry surface. Repeat the installation steps to set other stones.

» Keep the joints between the stones free of loose mortar. It is important to have a clean joint cavity to fill with mortar. "Pointing" up the joints can be done after the installation of the stone is complete.

MORTAR JOINTS

» Prepare the same mixture used for the setting bed, but the joint mix should be much wetter than the setting bed. Purchase a "grout bag" from your local masonry supply house for use in this phase.

» Take a damp sponge and work back and forth across the joint in a 45° direction, slightly compressing the joint and cutting off excess joint mix. Keep plenty of clean water available and rinse the sponge regularly. Remove as much of the joint mix smear as possible from the face of the stone before it dries.

» Only prepare as much mix as you can use quickly. If the unused portion starts to set, do not add more water, as this will result in an inconsistent joint strength and possible color differences.

» Allow the stonework to cure for a minimum of 5 days. In very hot weather you may dampen the joints with a spray bottle to help slow the curing process, making the joints stronger.

CLEANING

» After the stonework has cured, clean any leftover joint mix from the face of the stone by using an approved cleaning agent. Scrub with a long handled, natural bristle brush to remove the smear and then immediately flush with water. Do not let any cleaning solution remain on the stone to dry as it may cause damage and discoloration.