

STONE VENEER DONE RIGHT

Versetta Stone Veneer Panel
Buying and Installation Guide

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Stone-clad walls have a timeless appeal thanks to the shadowlines of multifaceted stone and the durability of a material forged in the earth. The drawback is the installation. The material is heavy and expensive, and because mortar is temperature-dependent, it can't be installed year-round in many parts of the country. Plus, it's become harder to find experienced, skilled masons who can work with stone. Boral's Versetta Stone products are manufactured thin stone-veneer siding panels that have the appeal of stone siding without the installation concerns. Versetta Stone is cast in molds with 56% recycled concrete aggregate and 46% Portland cement mixed with long strands of chopped fiberglass for added strength. These thin panels offer several advantages over the traditional stone masonry they replace: They can be installed with basic carpentry skills and tools, they install over typical sheathing and water-resistive barriers (WRBs) without additional preparation, they require no mortar so there are no temperature limitations, and they are relatively light at just 17 lb. per 2-sq.-ft. panel.

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Ledgestone Style in Plum Creek



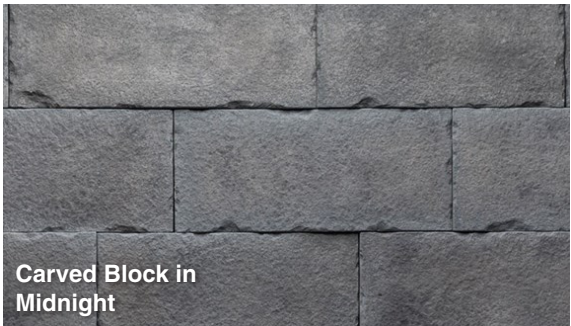
INSPIRED BY QUARRIED STONE

The Versetta Stone line of mortarless panels are crafted to appear like several common stone types—the Carved Block resembles the look of split-face stone, the Ledgestone Style has purposefully staggered rough-cut dry-laid stone, and the Tight Cut panels mimic carefully fitted, dry-laid quarried limestone. Carved Block comes in two shades, while Ledgestone Style and Tight Cut are available in seven different hues from dark graphite to white so you can make a regionally appropriate choice.

Thin veneer stone creates visual interest and can clad an entire wall or an accent area in interior and exterior locations. Common applications include accent wainscot on interior and exterior walls, exterior door surrounds and columns, outdoor kitchens, fireplace surrounds, mudrooms, or kitchen backsplashes. In addition to being designed for ease of installation, Versetta Stone is also cast in **accessory pieces** that make it easy to trim around windows and doors, install electrical outlets and lights, and cap wainscot features.



Tight Cut in Mission Point™



Carved Block in Midnight



An engineered stone product, the thin veneer panels are designed to be installed by carpenters and homeowners using the same skills and principles required for wood, fiber-cement, or vinyl siding. To ensure a durable installation, start each job with a survey of conditions.

Panels must be installed over a minimum of 1/2-in. plywood or OSB sheathing with either wood- or steel-stud framing that is 16 in. on center. Panels also can be installed over concrete and over continuous exterior insulation up to 3 in. thick when the proper fasteners are used (further details can be found at versetastone.com/resources). The cementitious panels are attached to the wall with screws or nails through a metal flange cast along the top of the panel. The flanges are offset slightly behind the back of the panels to hold the stone about 1/4 in. off the wall, creating a rainscreen that drains any moisture that works its way past the veneer. To shed this water, there should be a WRB lapped over the starter strip at the bottom of the wall to



A RANGE OF DESIGN OPTIONS Thin stone veneer siding can be used for curb appeal outside the house for landscaping features, and indoors for a fireplace surround. Available in three different stone styles and a range of colors from light to dark, Versetta Stone panels can lend both modern and classic inspiration to a room.



direct water through the weep holes in the starter strip and out of the wall assembly.

The starter strip supporting the first row of panels determines the layout of successive courses of siding. Versetta Stone siding must have at least 4 in. of clearance from soil and 2 in. of clearance from hard surfaces. With these minimum-clearance requirements in mind, adjust the location of the starter strip so that the layout of the 8-in.-high rows limits the number of horizontal cuts around windows and doors. A story pole is great way to plan the panel layout around penetrations, and the few minutes required to lay out a story pole are made up several times over during the installation process.

Once the starter strip is in place, panels are installed up the wall shingle style, with the bottom tongue of each row fitting into the groove atop the panels of the course beneath. Panels are fastened through an embedded metal fastener strip into both framing and sheathing with either hot-dipped galvanized roofing nails

or screws. Full-length panels should have four fasteners with at least two fasteners into framing. Panels cut shorter than 18 in. require two fasteners, one of which must be into framing.



SIDING PANELS GO UP QUICKLY An integrated metal flange on the top allows the 2-sq.-ft. flat panels to be attached with four screws or nails. The flat panels fit together with interlocking ends to fill the field of a wall.



WEAVE THE CORNERS

There are two primary types of panels used to clad a surface: flat panels and universal corners. The flat panels, which are 36 in. long, are used for much of the field. Tabs at each panel end interlock with the adjoining piece. Universal corners require cutting before use; both ends of the panel have finished edges, and a vertical cut creates a left corner piece and a right corner piece. These pieces are used for inside corners, outside corners, and wall terminations (where the adjoining wall has a different type of siding).

Unlike asphalt-shingle layout, which uses a consistent setback from row to row, the offset between courses of Versetta Stone siding should be random to eliminate any visible pattern. As successive courses are installed up the wall, panel ends should be staggered by at least 8 in. from a panel end in the row below to avoid a zipper appearance. Inside and outside corners should be woven, or staggered, so the long row is on alternating walls. When cutting universal corners, use random lengths—the offset



FINISHED CORNERS The finished ends of universal corners allow for woven corners with exposed ends. When installing, adjust the corner piece in and out for the best fit with the adjoining piece before fastening.



pieces will set the stagger for the next row. Just be sure that the shorter corner piece is at least 8 in. long.

Like split-faced stone, Versetta Stone panels are irregular, so the two edges of an outside corner do not line up perfectly in plane and should be adjusted to achieve the best-looking fit before fastening. Braden McClements, Versetta Stone technical product manager, holds the inside corner panel about $\frac{1}{2}$ in. shy of the adjoining wall because he's found that it creates a tighter joint when the next piece butts to it. The $\frac{1}{2}$ -in. gap also means it's not necessary to trim the end tab off the standard panel since it will slip into the small gap. If the raw concrete of a cut end will show, it can be sealed with Rust-Oleum MultiColor Textured Spray Paint to blend in with the face color.



INSIDE CORNERS On inside corners, the universal corner piece is installed first—the two inches at the end of the panel have less texture, so the standard panel can butt more tightly against it.



WORKING WITH MANUFACTURED STONE

Versetta Stone siding panels are designed to be installed by a carpenter or a homeowner with carpentry tools. That means that an installer has options when it comes to choosing cutting and fastening tools.

CUTTING

Comprised of recycled concrete, Portland cement, and fiberglass strands, Versetta Stone panels can be cut and shaped with a circular saw, miter saw with diamond segmented blade, grinder, or wet saw with continuous diamond blade. When using a wet saw, it's important to rinse panels after each cut so staining doesn't occur. And as with most cement products, it's important to wear an N95 respirator to protect yourself from dust when cutting the panels. Using a vacuum attachment with cutting tools helps to contain the dust.

FASTENING

Siding panels can be attached to the wall with nails or screws. A cordless driver and screws is an efficient option, as is a roofing nailer. In both cases, pay particular attention to the required fastener sizes provided with the siding. Masonry bits are necessary to predrill holes for screws through the face of a panel.



CORNER MITERS

When mitering a wainscot cap, cutting both the left and right pieces from the same stone allows the texture and color to run around the corner and provides the best appearance.

WORKING WITH NONSTANDARD PANELS

There are locations where you'll have to cut the fastener flange off a panel, such as at the row beneath a window, beneath the eave, beneath a trim detail such as wainscot, or beneath a transition to a different siding material. In these cases, the panel is installed with adhesive or a combination of adhesive and screws, which is also how accessory pieces like mounting blocks are installed.

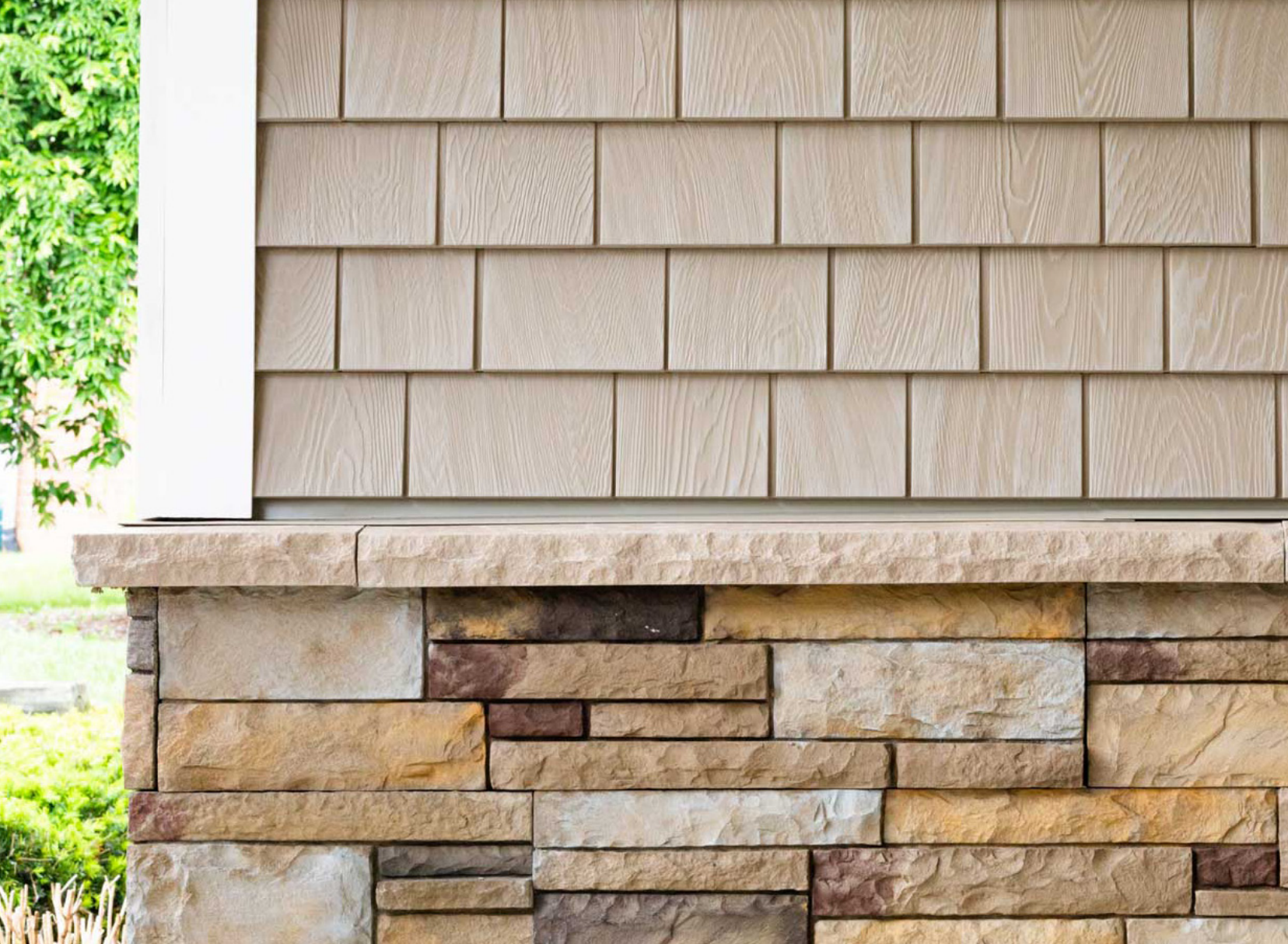
The adhesive needs to bond to something other than a WRB. Screwing galvanized lath or coil stock flashing to studs behind the flangeless stone piece creates a bonding surface for gluing the Versetta Stone with a construction adhesive. Two good choices are Loctite PL and Versetta Stone Textured Finishing Adhesive, which can also be used as a caulk and filler to blend cut edges or hide fasteners that must be driven through the face of the stone. Adhesive for ripped-down panels should be applied in 1/2-in.-thick, quarter-size dabs or vertical lines to maintain the ability to drain water behind the panel. When adhering mount-

ing blocks, apply the glue in an umbrella shape, with adhesive along the vertical edges connected by an arc across the top so that water is shed around the penetration. Do not apply adhesive along the bottom edge so any moisture is able to drain out. The panels



FLANGELESS PIECES REQUIRE ADHESIVE

Ripped-down panels or mounting blocks rely on construction adhesive to bond to a metal surface. Galvanized lath or coil flashing screwed into the framing creates an excellent bonding surface.



will need one trim-head screw every 16 in. or so to hold them in place while the adhesive dries. Predrilling holes for the screws is required. Some installers like to drive the screws through the shadowline of the simulated mortar joint, because it helps conceal the screwhead, but there is a risk of cracking the panel. Particularly when the panel is not at eye level, it's safer to choose a darker area of stone and drive the fastener through the face of the panel. The screwhead can be covered with Versetta Stone Textured Finishing Adhesive.

Unlike quarried stone, Versetta Stone stone veneer trim accessories are easy to use around electrical outlets and windows, and to cap a stone wainscot. For the best results, be mindful of the material requirements of adjacent siding types and follow recommendations for spacing above a cement-based product.

Following the Versetta Stone installation guidelines will ensure an efficient use of materials and a durable, very low-maintenance siding that is Class A fire rated, withstands 100-mph winds, and

is impervious to freeze-thaw cycles. And whether Versetta Stone siding is used on the exterior or the interior of a home, the depth of shadowlines, color variation in a panel, and range of available colors can be used to mimic regional styles and materials or create a modern design statement.



WAINSCOT CAP The wainscot cap piece is particularly useful; it provides a clean transition to other siding types above veneer panels and can also be used as a sill to trim out a window.