



INSTALLATION INSTRUCTIONS

EasyRock Products are designed for quick and easy installation; however, the following instructions must be carefully followed to insure proper installation for quality appearance and durability. The products may experience some chalking of the surface iron oxide colouring. This chalking is common with this colouring agent and does not affect the performance of the products. Care should be taken not to rub clothing or fabrics against the products as they may become stained.

Installation Instructions must be closely followed to ensure warranty performance.

REQUIRED TOOLS: For proper installation, the following tools may be required: Miter or Circular Saw, Table Saw, Measuring Tape, Pencil, A 2.5 gallon bucket for water, grout sponge, four foot level, Caulking Gun and Screw Gun. Some applications may require additional tools such as a Hammer Drill for masonry applications, and a ten-inch slider miter chop saw.

***Note: the installer should be skilled at operating the required power tools.

SAFETY GEAR: The following safety gear should always be used when working with the products: Safety Glasses, Earplugs (when operating power tools), Dust Mask, (when cutting in enclosed areas).

DESIGN SPECIFICATION: If architectural drawings are provided, always follow their product installation procedures closely.

LOCAL BUILDING CODES: Always study and follow local Building Codes when applying EasyRock Products.

HANDLING PRODUCTS: The products are made of plastic so they should not be stored on an angle in direct sunlight or they may be susceptible to warping. Keeping the panels flat or in the shipping box is best until installation. Exposed polyurethane will yellow in the sun. When you are finished installing the product, be sure to review the job, remove all polyurethane dust from the panels and cover any exposed areas (i.e. areas without colouring) with EasyRock grout-caulking. Although the products are highly impact resistant they should be handled carefully. Certain impact can cause severe damage.

MEASURING and MARKING: Products should be measured and marked from the backside. Using a measuring tape, mark the backside with a pencil or marker and then use a straight edge to mark a cutting line.

CUTTING: Always wear safety glasses and a dust mask when cutting the products. The panels are easiest cut from the flat backside where a cutting line can be followed. Mitered cuts can be

achieved with the same procedure. For ripping panels, (cutting panels lengthwise), a table saw may be most effective. Chop saws can also be used for cutting trim and other profiled products. To cut outlet and fixture holes, make accurate markings on the backside of the panel, then use a hole saw to cut the opening, just as you would with other siding materials.

TRIMMING: For close trimming, a drywall rasp can be used to reduce the edge. Also, a utility knife or drywall saw can be helpful in making small or detailed cuts.

APPLYING ADHESIVE: Products can be fastened to concrete, or brick or other hard surfaces using a specific construction adhesive. All surface areas must be clean, dry and free of oily and loose materials. All efforts should be taken to ensure uneven or loose materials are removed. It may be necessary to use a solvent such as denatured alcohol for cleaning the surface to insure proper adhesion. Use only PL300 (widely available) or CHEMTRON VersaBOND Structural Adhesive (available at Consolidated Gypsum). Apply the adhesive to the backside of the products. On panels, always apply the adhesive with a 3/8" bead in a vertical line every 16" along the full surface of the panel (do not apply the adhesive horizontally). For corners, apply a vertical line to the inside and outside edge. All trim and profiled parts have a solid edge on the backside for applying adhesive.

FASTENING: Products can be fastened over wood substrate using non-corrosive screws (such as decking screws) and to masonry with concrete screws. The screw must be exterior grade for outside applications and penetrate the substrate a minimum of 1". The screw head should be counter sunk about 1/8" and then covered with EasyRock grout-caulking. If the applications allows for adhesive on the backside, the panels must be fastened every 16" both vertically and horizontally. If there is no adhesive on the backside the panels must be fastened every 16" both vertically and horizontally. Where applicable, apply the screws only at the product's formed grout joint or where heavy texture is present so they can be easily hidden with the EasyRock grout-caulking. Over wood substrate, with adhesive on the backside, the product can also be fastened with pin nails.

GROUTING and CAULKING: Only EasyRock grout-caulking should be used for grouting applications. As with adhesive the areas must be clean prior to grouting. Panels are designed with shiplap joint connections. Grout-caulking can be applied inside the lap edge prior to installation. If necessary, your finger or tool can be used to evenly spread the grout-caulking across the edge. Sufficiently sized, neoprene backer rod should be placed in all open joints prior to applying the grout-caulking. The backer rod is fit tight into the joint and pushed back against the substrate. Textured grout-caulking is then dispensed along the joint in an even bead just filling the joint. The grout-caulking skins over quickly, so only apply a small amount and then work the grout-caulking in place. You can use your finger to smooth and distribute the grout-caulking or use a small brush to work it in place. Use a moist grout sponge (grout sponge is much more efficient than a regular sponge) to clean the excess from the product. Cleaning the grout sponge frequently, in a bucket of water, will help this process. Screw heads should be covered with grout-caulking and worked in with tool or finger. All cut edges must be completely covered with the grout-caulking. After the edge is cut or trimmed, textured grout-caulking should be applied to the edge and worked in until producing an even and blended appearance. A high quality, exterior grade, silicone caulking should be applied around all door and window openings, according to local building codes, prior to applying the products. Expansion and contraction occurs by extreme swings in temperature can cause the grout-caulking to break at a joint. Joints should be checked periodically and re-grouted if a break has occurred.

INSTALLING PANELS:

1. The wall should first be measured and laid out.
2. Chalk a level line before installing the first row.
 - a. Snap a horizontal line two feet from the bottom of the wall.
 - b. Measure from the line down to the bottom of the wall across the entire wall to ensure there is an equal distance. If the distance is not equal you will need to adjust the line to account for the difference. For example: If the two ends are two feet from the line to the bottom of the wall, and the centre measurement is one foot, eleven inches, you will have to adjust the beginning line up one inch to accommodate for the variance.
 - c. Mark a new line at the high point of the bottom of the wall.
 - d. Measure eight or twelve (depending on the panel motif) inches up from the bottom line and mark a line. Using a four-foot level, extend the mark into a line. This will be your beginning line and measurement to start.
 - e. From this line, chalk a line to the end of the wall. This is where the first row shiplap (top of the panel) will line up.
 - f. Repeat steps *d* and *e* for the height of the wall. This will give you a level line for each row.
3. After the wall is laid out, place and fasten the corner part (if applicable) with non-corrosive screws.
4. Measure the distance left between the last panel and the wall.
5. Measure and cut the panel the correct length, and then place the panel in its designated position to check the fit. If working around windows or doors (etc) use the back of the panel to mark where to cut. Use extreme caution when cutting panels into shape.
6. If the fit is right, use non-corrosive screws to install the panel. Be sure to always check the level of the new panel before fastening. If there is any exposed polyurethane due to cutting, it is best to cover this with grout before applying to the wall. Use four screws on the top-lap, two screws on the right-lap. To secure the panel even more, screw through the bottom of the new panel into the lap of the panel below and cover this screw hole with grout-caulking.
7. At the corner to panel joint, place the backer rod and then apply the textured grout-caulking along the right-lap edges and then fit and fasten the panel as required. Always use backer rod to fill bigger gaps then use the textured grout-caulking on top of it for the best long-term effect.
8. Each motif has four to eight patterns (indicated on the top-lap); you will have to ensure that you are not placing the same pattern next to or above one another. For example, on the second row, start with panel three, since panel one is already right below it.
9. Stagger the next row by cutting a full panel in half. Repeat this every other row. Be especially careful with the Sandstone motif that each alternating row lines up exactly the same as the rows below it properly.
10. Repeat steps 3 to 9 until finished.

FORMING and APPLYING CORNERS: To fit a right angle inside corner, cut each end at a 45-degree angle and try for no gap, then apply the grout. To form an outside corner, the panel can be mitered at a 45-degree angle and fit tight to give the appearance of a thick corner stone. Apply a small bead of grout-caulking to the outside edge of the cut. Fasten the edges together with non-corrosive screws, try to find a spot on the corner where a long enough stone is so that the screw will be hidden (or use shorter screws if necessary). Shave and fashion the corner

with a utility knife. Fit the two ends together tightly at the corner and let the grout-caulking squeeze out. Use a wet grout sponge to clean off the excess grout-caulking.

APPLICATION OVER WOOD SUBSTRATE: If a paper vapor barrier is required, then the panels must be applied with non-corrosive screws. Use four screws on the top-lap, two screws on the right-lap. To secure the panel even more, screw through the bottom of the new panel into the lap of the panel below and cover this screw hole with grout. If adhesive can be used, apply the adhesive to the backside of the panel and then place the panel in its designated place. Fasten with screws or pin nails as required to secure the panel.

APPLICATION OVER MASONRY: The product can be applied over brick, block or concrete, but the application requires some different tools and materials. After placing a panel, a hammer drill is used to drill a hole through the product and into the masonry. Then a special concrete screw, such as a tapcon, is used to fasten the panel. It is only required to use enough concrete screws to secure the panel until the adhesive sets.

APPLICATION OVER GYPSUM BOARD: When applying the products to surfaces, like gypsum board applied over framing, the product must be fastened to the framing or properly secured until the adhesive has time to set. If using screws only, ensure framing is suitable to allow for proper product bracing and support. Coarse thread drywall screws can be helpful in installation, but securing the panels to the studs is necessary.

APPLYING PROFILED PRODUCTS (Ledgers): The wall should first be measured and then a level line marked for proper placement. Most of the time the ledger will be sitting on top of an already installed panel. In this instance, allow the routed portion of the ledger to sit on the ship lap of the panel below. Then place at least a 3 ½" screw every 12 – 16" through the face of the ledger. Countersink the screw then fill with the textured grout-caulking.

REPAIRING and PATCHING: Small scars and gouges in the surface of the products can be easily repaired using EasyRock textured grout-caulking. Simply apply a small amount to the effected area and work it until achieving a blended appearance. Cutting out the damaged area can repair severely damaged areas. Then replace the damaged piece with a similar piece of the product.

SEALANT: A U.V. Guard Sealer is applied at EasyRock Products Inc. manufacturing plant. To maintain the warranty, the U.V. Guard Sealer, distributed by EasyRock Products Inc. must be re-applied every two years. This does NOT apply to our "Hardcoat" panels.

MAINTENANCE: Most loose materials such as dirt and scum can be washed off the product surface with a garden hose. Mild, non-abrasive household cleaners or soap and water can be used with a brush to clean stubborn particles, rust and other stains.

HELPFUL HINTS

INSIDE CORNERS: When joining two pieces to form an inside corner, other methods can be used. A 40 degree angle can be cut on both panels and then a backer rod applied in between the two. This should form a tight angle with a solid centre for applying EasyRock grout-caulking. The second option is to have one piece tight to the wall (preferably with the ship lap against the wall) and the second piece butted up tight to the secured piece. Caulking should be applied between the two panels to provide a proper moisture seal.

OUTSIDE CORNERS: Cutting the panel at a 46 or 47 degree angle rather than 45 degrees may allow for tighter corners, which look nicer and are easier to caulk.

***Angles and cuts may need to be played and experimented with, as most corners and walls are never straight.

PANELS: No panel will ever be perfect and some play may be necessary to ensure ease of installation and a desirable look. Check the levels of each row, not just the starter row. Measuring from a stable line such as a ceiling or soffit, rather than using a level, will give you an accurate line to follow. Also, don't be afraid to step back as often as you can to have a look and make sure everything looks right to your eye. It will also give you a chance to admire your work! ***Don't forget that panels are numbered 1 to 4 (1 to 8 with Sandstone panels). Try to install the panels sequentially to ensure similar panels are kept away from one another.

TOOLS: Utility knives, drywall rasps, drywall saws and flexi-blades can all be used to help trim corners, panels joined with noticeable seams or any other detailed cuts.

CAULKING/GROUTING: Some patterns and colours require only one or two colours of grout-caulking; others require up to five different colours. Make sure to ask EasyRock Products Inc., or a qualified installer for advice on the correct grout-caulking for the pattern and colour of stone. When it is necessary to use several grout-caulking colours to achieve the desired look, use a piece of wood or cardboard to apply a blob of each colour. That way you can take as much or as little of each colour, as well as mix many colours together to achieve the desired look. Be sure to dust off any polyurethane dust from the product before applying the grout-caulking.

***If you feel that you want more colours in a specific rock or panel, don't be afraid to colour it with the grout-caulking.

LEDGERS: Ledgers can be screwed in using slightly longer screws (3 to 3 ½"). Screw in three or four screws and cover the screw holes with the caulking.

INTERIOR (DRYWALL) INSTALLATION: Use a stud finder to locate all the wood studs in the wall. Use a pencil or marker to draw a line indicating the position of the studs. This will make it easy to ensure you hit the studs in as many places as possible.