

## Installation Guide Interior Product

GenStone Interior products are designed to provide a realistic look of stone or rock while providing as easy installation. Although installation of GenStone is much easier than masonry applications, proper installation requires good planning and preparation.

When calculating the amount of GenStone you will need it's a good idea to order a minimum of 5% additional square footage. When planning your work, here are some steps to consider.

- For the best results, you will want to create random patterns with even grout lines and staggered joints.
- When planning your pattern, keep in mind that there are 4 patterns of panels. You will want to avoid installing the same panel number either side-by-side or directly above or below the same numbered panel. You will want to sort panels and lay them out before starting each row.
- Now stagger vertical grout lines and check that horizontal lines are uniform in width and spacing between panels. Check for level with each row.

### Tools Recommended:

Power circular saw	framing square	Utility knife	Safety glasses
Power drill/screw driver	Wood rasp	Chalk line	Gloves
Screw driver bits	caulking gun (for 10oz tube)	Caulking	Hammer
Pencil and Level	Hand saw	Sponge	Tape measure

Fasteners recommended are 2 1/2" dry wall to dry wall screws.

### Measuring and Marking:

If you plan to use a circular or hand saw, it is best to measure and mark on the back, flat side of the panel. Use a level or other straight edge, pencil or marker, and a tape measure to mark the cut line. If you plan to cut using a table saw, it would be better to mark a point on the panel surface and use the flat side down on the table.

### Cutting and Trimming:

After following the marking instructions above you are now ready to cut. (Be sure to seal all cut edges with color matched caulk or touch up paint). When using a circular saw, cutting along the mark on the back, you will need to protect the face of the panel as you hold it in place on a smooth flat table. Placing the panel flat side down on the saw works best if using a table saw. For cutting of ledgers and smaller pieces a compound miter saw is best but a hand saw or jig saw will also work. For applications requiring cut outs for items such as electrical plates or lights, mark from the back and then cut out using a keyhole saw, jig saw, or a hole saw on a drill. Because GenStone products are handmade and go through a manufacturing process there are occasionally minor blemishes at the edge of the panels. These are easily corrected by slight trimming with a utility knife or by sanding.

Some installations may require a new negative ship lap edge be cut into a side. This can be done with a table saw, a router or router table, or if neither of these is available a circular saw preferably with a guide. Use a panel to determine the height (on a table saw) or depth (with a circular saw) to set the blade. This should be equal to the horizontal cut of the shiplap edge (approximately 1"). Once the blade is set, make the cut then reset the height (or depth ) to match the depth cut of the ship lap edge (approximately 1/2") effectively cutting a rectangle of material out of the corner. A router or router table can also be used to remove this material leaving the new negative ship lap edge.

### Application and Prep:

GenStone products are designed to be applied to a variety of substrates. These include concrete wall, CMU (cinder block), brick, hard stucco, cement backer boards, OSB, plywood, flat board siding, and drywall. Regardless of the substrate, the surface should be clean and free of debris or loose pieces.

Before beginning the installation process it is important to lay out your wall. As with many other building products, you will fit your GenStone panels to the wall. Walls that you will apply GenStone to may not be square, true, or plumb so small modifications to the panels (especially on your first/ bottom row and corners) may be necessary. These compensations can be made by trimming with a utility knife or sander to ensure an accurate installation.

To begin the layout, use a level to mark a line across the substrate at or above the top edge of your bottom row of panels. This will give you a reference as you run your panels and allow you to keep your installation square. Repeating these lines as you progress up the wall will allow you to make any necessary adjustments and maintain an accurate installation. Begin your installation in the lower left corner and proceed to the right down the wall with that row. It is critical that this first row be as true as possible because all other panels build from this point. If you are using GenStone corners, start by fitting the corner first and then the panel next to it for your first row.

## Outside Corners:

GenStone offers the following solutions for outside corners which are available to match all varieties of GenStone panels and are the best way to finish a corner.

1. These include a “Z” shaped corner piece to be used if installing around the corner onto another wall.
2. Left corner panel and right corner panel for installing on a wall and terminating about an inch.
3. Left end panel or right end panel to finish flush with the end of the wall with a finished end.

When installing, mark a level chalk line to ensure you are working level. Because corners are often out of true, you may need to shave minimal amounts from the back side of the panel, being cautious not to reduce the thickness too much.

- Measure, mark and cut to length the first corner piece or panel to be installed at the lower left of the wall area.
- Fit the first piece using the chalk line as your horizontal guide. (Note: If using a wood rasp, it takes very little time to custom fit each piece to the wall.)
- Install first corner piece at the bottom. With “z” shaped corner pieces, you may continue installation up the corner of the wall to the desired height. With corner panels, if you are installing around the corner onto another wall, you will want to alternate left and right panels as you move up the wall in order to achieve a staggered, natural random pattern.

## Inside Corners:

An inside corner piece is available or mitering is an option. If possible, when mitering, it is best to miter closer to the middle of the panel as opposed to the end, thus achieving a more solid stone appearance. These corners can be lightly sanded and filled with either GenStone caulk or a paintable exterior grade filler and then, if needed, touched up with GenStone’s touch up Paint.

## Installation of Panels:

Attach GenStone panels using dry wall to dry wall screws or an adhesive if installing over cement. GenStone panels have a positive shiplap edge and a negative shiplap edge. The positive shiplap edge is the edge that protrudes from the panel forming a lip. The negative shiplap edge is an under cut in the panel forming a void that the positive edge fits into. The positive edge should always be positioned on the top side of the panel.

- Secure the top of the panel by placing screws in the positive ship lap edge every 8” into studs as often as possible. Position the screw near the bottom of the shiplap edge. .
- Working from left to right, follow the chalk line as you continue to build the first row.
- Remember to select and arrange panels by color and pattern to achieve the best overall appearance.
- Repeat the installation process by working left to right for the second and each remaining row.
- Custom fitting panels is accomplished by using a power circular saw, hand saw, jig saw, utility saw and wood rasp.

## Fitting the last panel:

Measure the gap between the last installed panels from left to right. Measure from the inside grout line (for random rock) or from the inside product edge (for stacked stone) to the inside negative lip edge of the right end piece or corner. (Your tape will need to get behind the panel to accomplish this). This measurement represents the overall panel length cut off.

- Laying out and marking: Using a dark colored marking pen and square, mark on the back side of the panel the overall panel length cut off as measured in the previous step. Check that you are measuring from the correct end of the panel.
- For the score cut (to provide a proper overlap) subtract the width of the positive lip from the overall panel length cut off measurement. Mark a second line parallel to the first line to indicate this measurement.

## Score cutting and cutting the panel to length:

- Score cutting: Before making the first (score cut), set the rip depth to match the depth of the panel’s existing negative lip depth.
- Cutting panel to length: reset your blade to the appropriate (manufacturer’s recommended) through-cut setting so that you can safely cut the panel to length. (Please note: Follow all safety precautions provided by the manufacturer of the equipment or tools you work with.)

## Score cut:

- The score cut should closely match the depth of the negative lip.
- Cut to length panel end.

## Final cut:

- Stand the panel on end.
- Align the handsaw blade between the edge of the negative and positive lips at opposing top and bottom panel sides. Cut through until the section falls out.

## Maintenance and Cleaning:

GenStone panels require very little maintenance and should only be cleaned using water or warm water and a mild soap. **Do not use harsh chemicals (bleach, acids, and detergents.)**