

Q-Ply Natural Stone Veneer Information Sheet

Q-Ply Natural Stone Veneer is a flexible slate veneer which can be applied over concrete, ceramic, wood, metal, plywood, backer boards, tile, drywall, painted surfaces, MDF, door skins, and many other substrates. Q-Ply Natural Stone Veneer has been tested as a decorative laminate in many different environments. It has proven to be a superb material where a real stone finish is desired, but the costs or weight rule out heavy solid stone. Q-Ply Natural Stone Veneer is **NOT** recommended for commercial flooring or kitchen countertop applications.

Flexibility: Q-Ply Natural Stone Veneer may be used the same way thin laminate products are used. It will bend to a minimum radius (depending on color or type of backing) before cracking. With the assistance of heat, smaller radii can be achieved. Testing should always be done prior to any installation. Fiberglass reinforced polyester (FRP) backing provides the strength and flexibility.

Installation: Installation may be accomplished with most typical tools used to install laminate.

Preparation: Before application, it is recommended to clean, brush, and degrease any surface of dust or oils. In some installations, depending on the adhesive, it may be necessary to prep the back of the Q-Ply Natural Stone Veneer by sanding or scuffing. Use of some adhesives may require the use of solvents or a recommended primer by the adhesive manufacturer.

Layout: Preparation of the area to be covered and the layout of the Q-Ply Natural Stone Veneer sheets is the same as for natural stone or tile. A preliminary dry fit allows for arrangements and orientation of individual sheets, patterns, textures, and color before final placement. Numbering sheets to track relocation is recommend and time saving.

Cutting: Q-Ply Natural Stone Veneer may be cut with standard circular saws and table saws equipped with a carbide blade, or a laminated blade. Curves can be cut with a band-saw or long nosed tin snips.

Precautions: Always use the proper gloves, goggles, and dust mask when cutting or routing Q-Ply Natural Stone Veneer, due to the fiberglass backing. Industry standards recommend a NIOSH/MSHA approved respirator. The power tools should have proper filter and exhaust equipment. Cover exposed skin.

Safety: Avoid breathing silica dust. This product, when cut, drilled, or abraded produces dust containing free silica, which may cause cancer or delayed lung injury (silicosis) if inhaled. Work outdoors, or use mechanical ventilation.

Sealers: It is recommended to pre-seal Q-Ply Natural Stone Veneer prior to installation. This protects and seals the face from adhesives and grout during handling and installation. Use sealers that are



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normally used for slate, stone tiles, and wood. Different sealers offer different luster and color enhancement.

Adhesives: All adhesives should be tested prior to installation, including consideration of moisture and temperature in the environment. If installation is outdoors, consideration should be given to thermal expansion. Since Q-Ply Natural Stone Veneer is a veneer, it must expand and contract with the substrate or delamination may occur. Where adhesive primers are recommended, the bond should be tested before final installation.

The backing on Q-Ply Natural Stone Veneer (particularly the fiberglass backing) may require a filler type adhesive for some applications. For wet environments, polyester resin and water proof adhesive are the best candidates. Contact adhesives are not recommended due to the uneven backing of Q-Ply Natural Stone Veneer polyester backing.

Hand Rollers: A hand roller is recommended to remove air between the Q-Ply Natural Stone Veneer and the substrate. To properly roll out trapped air, start in the middle of the sheet while firmly rolling to an edge. Do not press TOO hard while rolling, as this may cause back filled areas to push adhesive out and leave an air void. By proper pre-back filling and using good rolling techniques, a solid hard surface will be achieved.

Trowels: To achieve the most uniform application of the adhesive to a substrate, use a 3/16" notched trowel. To back-fill a void on the veneer backing, use a flat trowel.

Tiling, Grouting, and Joining: Q-Ply Natural Stone Veneer can be used to create a tiled effect by leaving a grout joint between cut pieces. Sheets may also be butt-jointed for the look of a smaller seam. Due to the thin nature of the Q-Ply Natural Stone Veneer product, a 1/8" to 1/4" grout joint will produce better results. Tests show the use of water based epoxy and acrylic premixed grout work well to fill between the cut veneers. During the sponge off process, the epoxy will seal the surface of the Q-Ply Natural Stone Veneer, as well. The grouts are also available in several colors to match the existing décor. If desired, a deeper grout joint can be achieved by removing material just under the grout joint with a scraper tool. Modified grout and caulking grout can also be used.

Substrate: In some indoor and most outdoor applications, expansion and contraction must be equal to prevent delamination. A flexible adhesive may be considered in this case. Concrete and masonry substrates must be at least 28 days old. Hydrostatic pressure conditions and vapor transmission cannot exceed 3 lbs per 1,000 square feet (1.36 kgs per 93 sq meters) per 24 hours using a calcium chloride test (reference ASTM F1869), and retained moisture should be less than 2.5%.

Composition: Q-Ply Natural Stone Veneer is a natural stone veneer, laminated to various different backings, including fiberglass/polyester resin, a fleece and a "peel and stick". The standard backing is the fiberglass reinforced polyester resins (FRP) as found in the sample pack.



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Variations: Since Q-Ply Natural Stone Veneer is a natural stone veneer, color and texture variances are not defects within the material, but are inherent to it and part of the natural beauty of quarried materials. Q-Ply Natural Stone Veneer CANNOT be guaranteed to match dye-lot to dye-lot, so it is recommended that orders take into account future maintenance or re-fit possibilities.

UV & Temperature: The Q-Ply Natural Stone Veneer “Quartzite” product is suitable for both interior and exterior applications. The Q-Ply Natural Stone Veneer “Slate” should be tested before being used in an exterior application.

The stone surface of Q-Ply Natural Stone Veneer, like most stone elements, acts as a UV inhibitor and will resist high sun conditions for years. When adhered to a substrate, Q-Ply Natural Stone Veneer will handle thermal expansion and contraction of most standard construction materials. Q-Ply Natural Stone Veneer Quartzite will accommodate both high temperatures and freezing without cracking.



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