

BLOC WALL NATURAL STONE INSTALLATION GUIDE

INTRODUCTION

Bloc Wall is a mid-weight, natural stone cladding material that is suitable for indoor and outdoor use on feature walls, feature panels, columns, retaining walls and facades.



Bloc Wall Hotham Quartz

PRODUCT RANGE

There are four colours in the Bloc Wall range:



Bloc Wall Multicolour Slate - Item 5994 / 97644



Bloc Wall Hotham Quartz - Item 6007 / 97645



Bloc Wall Grey Quartz - Item 6014 / 97646



Bloc Wall Black Slate - Item 6021 / 97647

- Bloc Wall is made from natural stone of either slate or quartzite pieces.

- Bloc Wall is supplied in shrink wrap packs. Each pack contains 8 various size loose pieces. Each pack covers 0.25 square metres. There are 4 packs per square metre.
- There are 3 different heights of the pieces in each pack; 140mm, 80mm and 60mm. This enables 2 different patterns of installation. A pattern layout guide is included in each pack. The thickness of each piece is between 8 and 12mm.
- The average weight of Bloc Wall natural stone is 36 Kg per square metre for Black Slate and 34 Kg per square metre for the other 3 colours.
- Bloc Wall is designed to be butt jointed and not grouted. The stone can be installed spacing each row to allow a 'grout' joint to emphasise the linear nature of the design. Consult a professional stone installer for this finish.

INSTALLATION

Bloc Wall could be installed by most home handymen with an understanding of building however it is generally recommended to be installed by a suitably qualified tradesman. This information kit provides guideline information only and is not intended to be interpreted as a general specification for the application or installation of the products described. As each project differs, recommendations may vary from those contained herein. For specific applications/ installations, contact your adhesive supplier.

For all installations, the wall must be structurally sound and capable of supporting the load of the Bloc Wall. The average weight of Bloc Wall is 34 – 36 Kg per square metre. See Ardex Technical Bulletin TB001 for a table of typical substrates and Ardex recommended supporting weight limits.

Where Bloc Wall installation is to exceed 2 metres in height on a wall surface, a suitably qualified engineer should be consulted for confirmation of the load bearing capacity of the wall structure and suitable fixing systems. See Ardex Technical Bulletin TB147 for examples of mechanical fixing systems that can be used in conjunction with adhesive.

Note: DO NOT USE HardiTex Blue Board as a substrate for stone installation. It will not support the weight, especially if it is subject to any moisture.

CONCRETE SUBSTRATE

All concrete surfaces must have completed the recommended (AS3958.1-1991) curing and drying period of a minimum of 28 days prior to fixing Bloc Wall. The surface must be dry, free of all curing compounds, form release agents, and contaminants such as debris from other trades, waxy or oily films, excessive laitance and paint over-spray. Very smooth, steel float finished concrete should be scarified by mechanical methods such as grinding, abrasive blasting etc to achieve an open pored surface.

CEMENT RENDER SUBSTRATE

Cement render applied over brick and concrete block substrates must be in accordance with the recommendations of AS3958.1-1991, prior to the adhesive fixing of Bloc Wall. The render should have completed at least 7 days curing and drying and be wood float finished. Porous render must be primed with one coat of Ardex Multiprime or a suitable comparable product and allowed to dry (approximately 10 -20 minutes) prior to fixing Bloc Wall.

WATERPROOFING MEMBRANES

Use a suitable waterproofing membrane such as Ardex Undertile Waterproofing Membrane WPM 001, WPM 002 and WPM 390 or other suitable comparable products. This should be applied to the prepared wall surfaces in accordance with the manufacturer's instructions prior to the installation of Bloc Wall. Allow each membrane to fully cure and dry.

ADHESIVES

Product data sheets should be read carefully prior to adhesive use. Bloc Wall may be fixed to the prepared wall using adhesives such as the following (or suitable comparable product):

Ardex

- Optima 2 part white premium adhesive.
- STS8 mixed with (Ardion) E90 additive.
- Abaflex

CTA

- MCB A 66, A 80, A 20 with Admix A. If the stone is exposed to a lot of water, use A 80 or A 20 with Admix A.

Ensure all products are clean and dry prior to installation. Inspect packs carefully prior to use. Bloc Wall pieces from a number of different packs should always be mixed together during installation to achieve an acceptable colour blend. Install panels according to one of the attached patterns, offsetting the joints to retain a natural appearance.

1. All surfaces must be clean, square, structurally sound and able to support the average installed weight of 36kg per square metre. **Note: Blue Board is not a suitable substrate to support this weight.**

2. Waterproof the substrate if required with a suitable product such as Ardex Undertile Waterproofing membrane. Ensure any waterproofing is compatible with the adhesive to be used. Follow the manufacturer's recommendations.

3. Use an appropriate adhesive for the installation. Check the suitability of the adhesive for the specific installation and follow the manufacturer's recommendations. If in doubt contact your adhesive supplier.

4. Apply the mixed adhesive to the prepared wall surfaces using a (minimum size) 10mm notched trowel, spreading the adhesive in the same direction across the surface so the adhesive forms parallel lines. Work in small areas at a time so the Bloc Wall may be embedded before a 'skin' develops on the adhesive.

5. Check the first row is level then every 3 rows. If shims or packers are used under the bottom row to make it level, ensure they are not removed until the adhesive is fully cured.

6. The Bloc Wall pieces should be placed with a sliding action back and forth across the lines of spread adhesive while pressing each piece firmly onto the wall. The sliding action collapses the lines of spread adhesive and achieves full contact between the adhesive and the back of the tile. Occasionally remove tiles and check the adhesive fully covers the back of each piece. If necessary, apply the adhesive using a larger size notched trowel or butter additional adhesive directly onto the back of each tile.

7. Sponge adhesive residue off the surface immediately.

8. Block wall is designed not to be grouted. If grout lines are desired, use installation pattern number 1.

9. Movement joints are required in the Bloc Wall installations in accordance with the recommendations of AS3958. These joints should be at least 6mm wide and filled with a permanently compressible flexible sealant. In external applications the sealant must be stable when exposed to Ultra-violet light. Movement joints shall be located as follows:

- Over all existing movement joints in the wall structure.
- At each storey rise in the height of a wall.
- At all locations where a metal supporting angle has been installed to fill the gap under the metal to the stone below.
- At a maximum of 3.5m intervals along the length of a wall.

- Around all penetrations through the stack stone tile finish, and around any brackets fixed to the wall substrate.
- Around all joinery fittings such as door and window frames.
- Over all changes in the nature, plane and direction of the wall substrates.

10. due to the individual piece nature of the product, pieces from alternating rows can be overlapped at the corners for a natural stacked look. If cutting is required use all appropriate safety equipment when cutting.

11. Only use water and a wire brush to clean. Do not use acid or acidic cleaners.

12. Sealing the installed stone surface is recommended using a penetrating stone sealer after the installation has cured. This is generally 4 weeks. Any sealer must be reapplied as part of a regular on-going maintenance program. Consult the sealer manufactures for advice and test on a small inconspicuous area first. Colour enhancing sealer can be used as an alternative if required.

Colour variation occurs with all natural stone. Check for acceptable blend of colour before installation. Mix pieces from different packs together when installing. Some stone may oxidise as pyrite (Iron Sulphide) in the stone oxidises as it is exposed to the air and develop a rusty surface. This may leach or bleed when exposed to water. This can be accelerated by exposure to salty moist air. It is part of the natural weathering process of natural stone. This can be cleaned but will reoccur as part of the natural weathering process. Sealing may reduce the rate of oxidation but not stop it.

This installation guideline is for information only and is not intended to be interpreted as a general specification for the application or installation of the products described. As each project differs, recommendations may vary from those contained herein. For specific applications/ installations, contact your adhesive supplier, a professional builder or natural stone installer or structural engineer for further advice or to answer specific installation questions.