



## StoneCraft Frequently Asked Questions - General

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**1. Who is StoneCraft Industries?**

StoneCraft has manufactured quality stone veneer in the U.S. for over 37 years. Recently, StoneCraft has been added as a brand of The Tapco Group.

**2. What are the advantages of using StoneCraft manufactured stone veneer?**

StoneCraft products are made from the basic components of real stone; shale, Portland cement, aggregate and natural mineral oxides. It is cast from mold of real stones which makes it lighter than natural stone.

**3. What is the difference between StoneCraft and natural stone?**

StoneCraft is a cement based product that is cast from molds of real stone which makes it lighter than natural stone. StoneCraft is light weight and designed to adhere easily to a variety of structurally sound surfaces.

**4. What is the difference in the installed cost of natural stone vs. StoneCraft?**

StoneCraft is approximately  $\frac{1}{3}$  to  $\frac{1}{2}$  the installed cost of natural stone. Its lightweight properties eliminate the need for wall ties or footings. StoneCraft has a 2% (approximately) waste factor versus over 10% for natural stone.

**5. Is a mason needed to install StoneCraft?**

No, all you need is a basic knowledge of installation procedures. Follow our step-by-step instructions available at: [www.stonecraft.com](http://www.stonecraft.com)

**6. Where can StoneCraft be installed?**

There are a number of places StoneCraft is ideal for use on the façade of homes, outdoor fireplaces, BBQ pits, interior fireplaces/hearths, kitchens, baths, etc. **Note:** StoneCraft is designed for vertical applications only and should not be used on walkways, driveways, etc.

**7. The lid on the StoneCraft box has mold growing on it. Is the stone okay?**

Yes. Due to the curing process of stone, as the stone cures (dries) heat and moisture are released. Sometimes, if the moisture becomes trapped in the box, mold will form on the box. This is a natural occurrence and it does not affect the stone in any way.

**8. There was water in the bottom of the StoneCraft box, is the product okay?**

Yes. Stone is frequently shipped "wet" or uncured. It takes approximately 30-45 days for stone to cure fully and for the water to be released from the stone. This is a normal occurrence and it does not affect the stone in any way.



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**9. The stone purchased seems to be darker than the sample board, is the stone the correct color?**

Yes. Stone is frequently shipped "wet/uncured". It takes approximately 30-45 days for stone to cure fully and for the water to be released from the stone. The stone will be 1-2 shades darker than normal until it dries.

**10. The sample board showed a wide range of colors, and the stone purchased doesn't have as many colors. Is the stone the correct color?**

Yes. Boxes of product simulate the color ratio of what is most common in nature. For example, Ledgestone Chardonnay includes the following color stones in the mix: medium brown, yellow, deep brown, and granite red. The highest percentage in the mix is medium brown and the lowest percentage is granite red. While all of the colors may be shown on the sample board, they are not mix equally in the box because it would change the overall appearance on a project and could create a "checkerboard" effect. On a small-scale job, it is possible that all of the colors would not be represented in the boxes of product. It is recommended that you purchase an additional box or two for color mixing purposes.

**11. Can StoneCraft veneer be used near water?**

Yes, StoneCraft stone veneer can provide stunning home accents in your kitchen, bath or outdoor living area. **Note:** StoneCraft cannot be submerged in water (i.e. in a swimming pool). When used in a kitchen or bath application it is recommended that you use either a silane or siloxane based sealer to protect the stone.

**12. Do you need specialty tools to install StoneCraft?**

No, StoneCraft can be installed with basic tools such as a brick hammer, masonry trowel, wide mouth nippers, wheel barrow, etc. . For a complete list of the required tools please refer to the StoneCraft Installation Instructions on the StoneCraft website. Other items, such as mortar mix and metal lath can be purchased at most building supply centers, hardware stores, lumber yards and home improvement stores.

**13. Will StoneCraft fade?**

The base color is blended throughout and permanent mineral oxides are applied and absorbed by the stone when it is cast. Consequently, the color becomes an integral part of the stone.

**14. What about repetition in stone profile or installation?**

StoneCraft is cast from hundreds of molds. It can span an average of 150 square feet of non-repeating textures for each stone profile. In addition, because our color is hand applied, no two stones are exactly the same. For the best profile and color mix we recommend laying the stone out prior to installation so that the color and size ratio can be adjusted during installation.



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**15. Can you seal StoneCraft products?**

Yes, but it is not required. If you use a sealant on the StoneCraft product, always follow the instructions provided by the sealant manufacturer. Use either a silane or siloxane based sealant only.

**16. Is StoneCraft combustible?**

No, StoneCraft's listing by Underwriters Laboratories shows zero fuel contributed and zero smoke developed. It can be installed as a façade to fireplaces and behind stoves. It is recommended that you keep the product at least 18" away from any direct flame to prevent scorching the stone.

**17. What does AC51 certified mean?**

AC51 is a national testing standard for regulating the manufacturing process and quality of materials used. This certification means that all StoneCraft products are manufactured in a consistent manner adherent to the national standard. There are only 3 other manufacturers in the country who are AC51.

**18. What type of warranty is offered?**

StoneCraft comes with a 50-year limited warranty. The warranty covers manufacturer defect and integrity of the stone.



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## StoneCraft Frequently Asked Questions - Installation

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### 1. What type of surfaces can StoneCraft be installed on?

StoneCraft can be installed on any properly prepared substrate such as concrete, drywall, plywood or masonry. **Note:** StoneCraft is designed for vertical applications only and should not be used on walkways, driveways, etc.

### 2. What is the difference between Standard Grout, Joint-less/Dry-stack and Over-Grout?

**Standard Grout** installation is achieved by laying each stone roughly one finger width apart from each other. A grout bag is then used to fill the joints with mortar, forcing grout into any voids. Standard grout techniques can be used on all StoneCraft profiles excluding LedgeStone.

**Joint-less/Dry-stack** installation is achieved by "dry" fitting each stone prior to installation. Each piece can be laid with virtually no joint. Even though mortar is used to set the stone to the surface, the finished look will appear as though no mortar was used during installation. However, it is sometimes necessary to do touch-up grouting to fill noticeable voids and to conceal cut or broken edges of the stone. Dry-stack techniques can be used with the LedgeStone profile.

**Over-grout** is an ever increasing technique to achieve an old-world look that makes the finished stone appear rustic and aged. The grout overlaps the face of the stone, widening the joints and making them very irregular. It is very important that the joint's mortar be applied with the absence of air pockets and are filled completely to the substrate. Mortar consistency should be right between being too wet and too crumbly. Over-grout techniques can be used with Fieldstone, Monarch, Quartz and Top Rock.

### 3. Should you use one or two layers of weather-resistive barrier when preparing the wall surface?

For optimum performance, we recommend that you use two layers of weather resistive barrier on the wall surface prior to installing the metal lath.

### 4. How do you apply stone?

For standard grout installation, StoneCraft is applied from the top down. This helps to keep the stone clean. For Joint-less/Dry- Stack installation, stone is applied from the bottom up.

**Note:** Install the corners first for easiest fitting.

### 5. Can StoneCraft stones be cut?

Yes, using wide-mouth nippers or a brick hammer. You may also use a masonry blade with a circular or masonry saw. **Note:** Cut edges should be turned so they are not visible (down when below eye level and up when above eye level). To help conceal cut or broken edges, cover them with mortar when grouting.



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### 6. Can StoneCraft be installed over existing brick or existing concrete?

Yes. However for added insurance to minimize bond failure or to reduce the possibility of cracking, use a metal lath and scratch coat. Newly poured concrete should be closely examined to ensure the surface does not contain any type of oil or release agents that may have been used during the forming process.

A common method for determining the presence of a release agent is to spray the surface with water. If the water beads up or runs off the wall, the presence of a release agent is likely. If a release agent is present, use a metal lath and scratch coat to install StoneCraft. Otherwise, you must remove the release agent using acid etch or wire brush the surface. It is imperative that the concrete surface is free from release contamination if lath and scratch coat is not used to ensure a proper bond. To install over painted, sealed or treated brick or other masonry surfaces, a) clean the surface back to the original surface by sandblasting, water blasting, acid etching, or wire brushing or b) have metal lath attached using corrosion-resistant concrete nails with a scratch coat applied over the metal lath.

### 7. Can StoneCraft be installed over OSB?

Yes, when OSB is properly installed according to manufacturer guidelines.

### 8. What is the recommended mortar mix?

#### Type N Mortar suggested mix

2 parts Type N Masonry Cement  
3 to 5 parts Masonry Sand  
Water

#### Or

1 part Portland cement  
1 part Lime  
3 to 5 parts Masonry Sand  
Water

#### Type S Mortar alternative mix

3 parts Type S Masonry Cement  
5 to 7 parts Masonry Sand  
Water

#### Or

2 parts Portland cement  
1 part Lime  
5 to 7 parts Masonry Sand  
Water

### 9. Can you use a synthetic mortar mix (Quikrete)?

Yes, as long as it is specified for Stone Veneer use.



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- 10. Once the scratch-coat is applied, how long should you wait before installing the product?** Allow the scratch coat to dry for 12-24 hours prior to installation. If the stone is being installed onto a very dry surface or in a hot/dry climate, the stone and wall surface should be wet to prevent excessive absorption of moisture from the mortar. This can be done by spraying or brushing water into the back of the stone and the wall surface and/or by dipping the stone into a container of water. **Note:** In a Jointless/Dry-stacked installations it is always necessary to wet the stones regardless of weather conditions.
- 11. During installation mortar dripped on to the face of the stone. How do I remove it without damaging/staining the stone?**  
If any mortar accidentally gets on the stone face, do not try to wipe it off as it will smear and stain the stone. The mortar should be allowed to set until dry and crumbly, and then brushed off with a dry whisk broom.
- 12. Can the stone be installed at grade level or below?**  
No, stone should not be installed at grade level or below. When placed at grade-level, water will wick into the stone causing it to pop off the wall surface over time.
- 13. Is StoneCraft painted?**  
StoneCraft uses natural mineral oxides to tint the stones. The base color is blended throughout and permanent mineral oxides are applied and absorbed by the stone when it is cast. Consequently the color becomes an integral part of the stone.
- 14. Will it fade over time?**  
StoneCraft will weather naturally over time just like natural stone.
- 15. How do you clean the stone?**  
To clean dirt or other particles from the stone, first try a simple soft bristle brush. If necessary, use a granulated mild type detergent mixed with water or a solution of no more than 1 part white household vinegar mixed with 5 parts water. Rinse well with clean water to remove any cleaning solution that might remain on the stone. **Never use power washers, bleach, paint remover or any other type of concrete cleaner.**



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### 16. What is efflorescence?

Efflorescence is a white crystalline or powdery, often fluffy/fuzzy deposit on the surface of masonry materials like concrete, brick, clay tile, etc. It's caused by water seeping through the wall/floor/object. When the water dissolves, salt is left on the surface. Efflorescence is relatively easy to remove should this occur. Scrub the stone surface with a soft bristle brush and a solution of 1 part white household vinegar mixed with 5 parts water. **Do not use acid based or other harsh cleaners on StoneCraft Stone Veneer. Do not clean with a power/pressure washer.**

### 17. What is the average installation time/coverage?

Approximately 100 square feet per day. This will vary depending on the stone type used.

### 18. How many square feet will a bag of mortar cover when applying stone?

A 94lb bag covers 8-12ft for grouted applications and 10-14 ft for dry stacked.

### 19. How high can StoneCraft be installed on a structure?

StoneCraft can be installed at a maximum height of 30 ft per ICC (International Code Council) guidelines, when the underlying substrate is wood or wood based. If the underlying substrate is brick or cement there are no height maximums, as long as the structure is sound and meets local building code ordinances.



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