

SELECTION PROCESS

Where do you plan on using stone on your project?

Stone is one of the most versatile building products and can be incorporated into any project. Expand your view of the product, and look to the new and unique areas you can plan for natural stone.

Are you using stone on more than one area of the house?

1. exterior
2. interior walls/ kitchens, and fireplaces
3. retaining walls
4. patios and outdoor living areas

Does your project have a more old world or contemporary feel?

There is a natural stone to fit owner's and designer's project requirements. For a more contemporary look, consider products with sawn lines like those in our Dimensional line or our cut stone panels. A rustic finish can be done altering the joints of the stones. Overgrouted mortar joints provide the look and feel from a time when stone was a structural, load bearing building material. At that time, function was critical and finish a secondary need. It is also important to pay close attention to the mortar joints. In an installation with a standard mortar joint, it is common for 25 percent of the finished installation to draw color from the mortar. With that, consider this:

Mortar color – gray is standard, white, tan, brown and charcoal are sometimes used

Joint finish – raked is most common – you can also consider several others – flush, drystacked, struck, and overgrout. See how the same stone can look different just by changing mortar and joints.



Common coverage to plan for:

	Standard Joint	Drystack	Overgrout
Full Veneer	40 Sq. Feet	30 Sq. Feet	50 Sq. Feet
Thin Veneer	8 & 100 Sq. Feet *	6 & 75 Sq. Feet *	10 & 110 Sq. Feet *

* per box

*Coverage can vary also depending on the amount of field trimming a mason may use to achieve a certain look. Always plan a waste factor into your order.

Are there going to be transition areas between stone and other material such as stucco, windows, siding, or brick?

Consider transitional material such as a cut stone sill to bridge areas of stone and building features. This is an important item to provide in areas where water could get behind the stone and possibly do damage to the substrate or force the stone off the wall due to freezing and thawing.

There are also several materials you can use for sills. The most common is rockfaced 2 ¼" sills, but several others are available. See our cut stone page for more options.

Do you know what other products are being incorporated into the project?

When going to select your stone, bring along as many of your samples as possible. For exterior, bring other facing materials – siding and stucco; also shingles, window trim, soffit and gutter options. For interior installs – flooring, trimwork, and paint color can be a great help.

What should you consider when selecting a contractor for installing your products?

Several people will install stone themselves. Depending on look and product, this may be a feasible option. It is important to remember that stone installation is an art form, and the best material supplied will still have dramatic visual differences if not installed in the proper way. When selecting a mason or landscape contractor, ask the following questions:

- How long have you been in business?
- Do you have past project references to contact?
- Do they have a portfolio of past projects?
- What is the length of time they feel the project will take?
- Are they insured?
- Do they warranty any of the work they do?
- Have they done any work similar to what you need?
- Are they billing time and materials or is it a lump sum bill?
- Is dust or noise a concern in your subdivision? If it is, how do they plan to address this?

Although these things may seem trivial, you want to make sure you compare apples to apples when reviewing bids. This can save surprises during the project.

When the project is ready to start, make sure your contractor is aware of the materials you have selected.

This is especially important if you have changed your product selection somewhere during the process. Plan a meeting ahead of the start date to make sure the contractor is aware of all your requests, such as installation finishes (raked joints, dry stacked, etc.).

Before commencing the installation confirm with your contractor all the particulars of your job, this eliminates the risk of a change being missed.

Attention to Detail

Once the material has been delivered and the contractor is ready to start, it is a good idea to stop by the project once they have some material installed. This will make sure things are going the direction you want. Remember – it takes a while for mortar to cure. This can affect the final look as the wet mortar will appear much darker than the final cured mortar.

When the project is done, does the stone need to be cleaned or sealed?

It is important to be very careful with these processes, as they complete the project. Follow our recommendations on cleaning and sealing. If you are unsure, contact a Buechel Stone dealer or contact us directly. One phone call can save you from disastrous results.