

## Island Stone Strip Cladding Laying Guide

**Inspection:** No two pieces of natural stone are exactly alike. Tiles must be examined prior to installation to ensure if blending is required. **No claims will be accepted by Island Stone after installation. Use of product implies acceptance.**

**Substrate:** The substrate must comply with drying times such as BS 5385 & BS 8204-1:2003. As the tiles with adhesive weigh approximately 30-34 kg p/m<sup>2</sup>, the chosen substrate must have a suitable weight rating.

Gypsum ibre board and lightweight tile backing boards may be suitable (if) their published weight ratings comply. Block walls, brick walls are normally suitable provided they comply with the weight ratings. Marine ply is generally not an ideal product for cement adhesive cohesion and ply manufacturer weight ratings vary widely, unless treated and primed properly ply is subject to warping we therefore do not promote its use.

We recommend 20mm Wedi Tilebacker board as accredited under BBA certificate 00/3675\* Any application over 3m high we only recommend Wedi board 20mm with 12 Wedi approved PW60 washers and Wedi approved fasteners p/m<sup>2</sup> in accordance with their specifications. Note: 12 fixings p/m<sup>2</sup> is a Wedi specification especially for Island Stone products therefore this number of fixings supersedes Wedi's generic general instructions.

For shower enclosures we only recommend Wedi products as per their installation guides.

See [www.wedi.co.uk](http://www.wedi.co.uk)

**Fixing:** **Adhesive** - Ardex recommend Ardex S 16 (S16 W white or S16 G grey) together with the flexible additive Ardex E90 is proposed for internal conditions. We recommend using a coloured adhesive similar to the stone colour to visually mask any joins (if any). Ardex X7R is the recommended adhesive for wet or external conditions.

**Grout (if required)** - Ardex FS (32 colours available) for joins up to 4mm, has flexible additive mixed within the grout. Grout is normally only required in shower enclosures

**Stockist** - For your local stockist and further technical advice on Ardex call 01440 714 939 or visit [www.ardex.co.uk](http://www.ardex.co.uk)

**Movement:** Installers need to accommodate the latest movement building standards into their installation where applicable.

**Installation:** With the strip cladding tile a typical installation employs the following method; lay the entire bottom row then when laying the next row off-set the apex of the tile 50% from the row beneath (brick bond pattern). Care should be taken to ensure that the horizontal lines stay straight and do not wave. A datum / laser line should be established every 200-300mm high to ensure a quality finish. Tiles below the datum line may need fractional/minor horizontal adjustment to be evenly spaced up to the datum line. Grout spacing – not normally required, tiles usually installed butt joined methods however in a shower area introduce a 2mm grout space (recommended for water repelling and practical easy of cleaning).

**Corners:** are normally approached with an aluminum L plate. The vertical L plate over hangs one wall by approx 14mm the tiles are laid into the L plate whereas the tiles on the other wall are fitted up to the back of the (overhanging) L plate. An external corner alternative is A finger joint pattern can be achieved but requires cutting each strip individually. This results in a unique stone corner with no L plate.

**Sealers:** It is recommended that the tiles are sealed with your choice of natural stone sealers. For example Lithofin MN Stain-Stop seals and keeps the stone relatively unchanged in appearance. MN Stain-Stop PLUS (the PLUS aspect is an added colour enhancer) intensifies the colour of the stone.

It is advised to test your choice of sealer first in an area to ensure the chosen sealer is providing the desired finish. For your local stockist and further technical advice on Lithofin products call 01962 732 126 or visit [www.lithofin.com](http://www.lithofin.com)

**Cleaning:** It is recommended that a PH neutral cleaner is used, be wary of acid based cleaners they will break down the sealer over time. PH Neutral cleaners available from Lithofin are Easy-Care (for general purpose maintenance) or Lithofin Wexa for a commercial clean, this probably is only needed at floor level where enthusiastic mopping may have tarnished the visual appearance of the bottom layer of tiles. Otherwise general dusting is all that may be required for the lifetime of the wall. Shower enclosures and floor installations will require routine cleaning with the above PH neutral products, definitely no bleach products allowed.

### Disclaimer

Island Stone's scope of qualified information is limited to the tile itself. Island Stone is not an authoritative source of other manufacturer technical specifications. Island Stone has sought information from Ardex and Wedi systems and uses this information in good faith. Information with regards to fixing, adhesives, build standards or methods, substrate loadings, tolerances and engineering issues are outside of our scope of expertise. Contractors need to ensure by their own enquires that all aspects of installation abide by the latest building standards/interpretations and comply with the other suppliers recommendations.

\*internal use