

# TECHNICAL INFORMATION

# SONOMA STONE



sonomatilemakers.com

## APPLICATIONS

Our stones are suitable for all interior residential applications. This includes interior walls, shower walls, and light-use counters and floors. Commercial applications are typically limited to interior vertical applications and light traffic floors. Tessuto, Gray Flannel and Teakwood are not recommended for any horizontal surfaces where water will accumulate or exterior applications.

## VARIATION

Stone is a natural product and no two pieces are ever the same. Sonoma Stones are sourced from the finest suppliers in the world, guaranteeing you'll receive unique natural variations in color, texture, movement and veining from piece to piece. Due to these variations it is impossible to show an accurate representation of these products in a photograph or individual piece. Once blended and properly installed, the resulting variation is what defines the unsurpassed beauty of natural stone.

## INSTALLATION AND MAINTENANCE

**Select installers for Sonoma Stone with great consideration and care as proper installation is critical. Make sure the installer understands the blending requirements as Sonoma Stones have variation in color, texture, movement and veining. For this reason, all stone should be unpacked, inspected and BLEND prior to installation. We do not accept claims for variation in any stone after installation.**

**INDUSTRY RESOURCES:** Due to the natural characteristics of stone products, it is very important that proper installation materials and methods are used according to material manufacturers recommendations and relevant industry standards. For specific questions or accepted industry standards, refer to the Marble Institute of America ([www.marble-institute.com](http://www.marble-institute.com)) and TCNA Handbook ([tileusa.com](http://tileusa.com)). For information regarding installation materials, contact manufacturers.

**SUBSTRATES:** We recommend installing stones over a clean, sound, flat and thoroughly cured concrete or mortar bed with a fine broom finish, approximately the texture of #80 grit sand paper. The surface should be free of curing agents, waxes, grease, oils, dirt and paint or other contaminants/conditions that could compromise material bonding. When stone is installed on a concrete slab at ground level, it is the responsibility of the buyer and installer to ensure a proper moisture/crack isolation barrier is in place prior to installation.

**ADHESIVES:** There are many acceptable adhesives for bonding stones, such as thin-sets, epoxies and urethanes. With such a wide variety of products available it is up to the end user, installer or industry professional to select the proper adhesives and grouts for the job at hand. As a standard rule we recommend not mixing manufacturer's products. We also recommend confirming that "natural stone installation" is listed on the manufacturer's labels for each area and type of use.

When installing stone over membranes and heat mats, we recommend following the membrane/heat mat manufacturer's adhesive recommendations typically using rapid, fast set thin-set or epoxy adhesives. Make sure to allow sufficient dry time after installation and before grouting. A minimum of 24-48 hours is suggested and 72 hours or longer for membrane/heat mat installations.

For trowel size and technique we align our recommendations with the National Tile Contractors Association's Trowel and Error Video (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=roVqR-taAM>). Additionally, we recommend no less than 95% adhesive coverage between the substrate and tile for all applications (with all corners and edges completely supported by adhesive). Typical notch trowel sizes are 3/8"x3/8" & 1/2"x1/2". A relatively flat substrate (1/8" variation in 10 feet) can usually utilize a 3/8"x3/8" trowel, however, sometimes a 1/2"x1/2" trowel will be needed. Occasionally, check for proper coverage by lifting a freshly set tile to confirm coverage.

## INSTALLATION TECHNIQUE:

1. Mix all adhesives according to manufacturer's instructions taking care not to over hydrate adhesives mixed with water.
2. For dry concrete and mortar bed thin-set applications, broom or vacuum the surface then lightly dampen prior to thin-set application.
3. For membrane and epoxy applications, lightly broom or vacuum substrates prior to applying adhesives.
4. Apply an initial coat of adhesive using the flat side of a trowel and sufficient pressure to imbed a thin layer of adhesive to the substrate. Follow immediately by adding more adhesive and notching it, in a horizontal and/or perpendicular pattern of straight full notches. Do this on both the substrate and the tile.
5. Place the tile into the notched substrate and press into the adhesive running in the same direction. Push back and forth to achieve full coverage and a uniform finish with surrounding tiles.
6. Clean adhesive off the stones face as you go.
7. Allow a minimum of 24-72 hours before sealing and grouting.

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**GROUTING & SEALING:** Sealing is an essential step in protecting the beauty and ensuring the longevity of any Sonoma Stone. We recommend sealing all Sonoma Stones with a penetrating sealer prior to grouting. This prevents grout from staining or affecting the color of the stones. It is further recommended that stone products be resealed annually or as part of normal maintenance. Grout joints should be packed full and free of all voids. Excess grout should be cleaned from the stone surface as the work progresses, before the grout hardens. Cure grout per grout manufacturer's instructions. Do not use acids to clean off excess grout. **Dark grouts may stain light colored stones. Test prior to installation. Sealing before grouting may help but will not guarantee stain prevention from dark grout.**

**MAINTENANCE:** Clean stone surfaces with a neutral cleaner, stone soap or a mild liquid dishwashing detergent mixed with clean warm water followed by a clean, warm water rinse. Use a clean rag or sponge mop on floors and soft clean cloth for other surfaces for best results. Rinse the surface thoroughly after washing with the soap solution and dry with a soft cloth. Change the rinse water frequently. Care should be taken to protect Sonoma Stones from harsh abrasive cleaners and abrasive cleaning tools. Avoid stone care sprays that contain phosphoric and glycolic acids, as they can etch some polished stone surfaces.

## SPECIAL NOTES

**Note on Gray Flannel & Tessuto:** We do not recommend this stone for horizontal applications where water can accumulate. This stone has a high salt content, which may lead to efflorescence (salt materials to come to the surface and crystallize). This is a naturally occurring process and common to some stones. We recommend setting these stones with a no water latex, rapid or fast set thin-set or epoxy adhesive. Also, prior to sealing with a penetrating sealer, allow the stone to fully breathe and dry out. This minimizes the effects of efflorescence, but is no guarantee to have none at all. In some cases the efflorescence can be rubbed off with a light damp cloth or very fine abrasive (grain 320 or 400). The stone may need to be professionally re-surfaced or replaced for severe damage resulting from lack of proper maintenance.

## IMPORTANT!

We recommend using a wet cutting tile saw, equipped with a diamond blade made specifically for cutting natural stones, to cut Sonoma Stone. Do not use dry cutting power tools, as dry stone fabrication techniques could expose people to a harmful environment.