

CREATIVE MINES LLC | 6102 Avenida Encinas Suite M

Carlsbad California 92011 | 800 453 7040 | [creativemines.us](http://creativemines.us)



**CREATIVE MINES**<sup>®</sup>

MAKERS of STONE and MASONRY VENEER

# Important Additional Installation Instructions and Considerations

*Creative Mines supports and recommends following the installation instructions outlined in the Masonry Veneer Manufacturers Association's (MVMA) Installation Guide and Detailing Options for Compliance with ASTM C1780 for Adhered Manufactured Stone Veneer: 4th Edition.*

*Download the MVMA instructions under the "Technical" section at: [www.creativemines.us](http://www.creativemines.us).*

**ALSO SEE:**

*Separate installation instructions for Craft Board Form™, Rectangles, Squares and Inner Piece and Attachment through Expanded Polystyrene (EPS) to Wood or Steel Wall Framing.*

***In conjunction with MVMA, the following additional recommendations should be given special consideration.***

## **CHOOSE THE APPROPRIATE MORTAR**

Mortars suitable for installing Creative Mines Craft Masonry Veneer are:

1. *Type N or Type S mortar meeting ASTM C270.*

2. *Polymer Modified Mortars suitable for installation of concrete masonry veneer and complying with ANSI A118.4 or ANSI A118.15 or equivalent.*

Polymer Modified Mortars provide higher bond strength, better workability, “*flowability*” and a better ability to absorb and hold moisture to minimize the possibility of the mortar drying out. Tight-fit / drystacked applications should be installed with Polymer Modified Mortar. Do not use Type S or Type N mortar for these applications. Type S and Type N mortars are suitable for installing grouted veneer applications.

**Note:** *Polymer Modified Mortars must accommodate “re-wetting” to avoid drying out and compromising the bond.*

## **MIX THE MORTAR THOROUGHLY**

For the best bond, the mortar should be mixed to a firm, moist, “*flowable*” consistency. If it’s too dry and crumbly it won’t bond well. If it’s too wet and runny installation will be messy and veneer will have a weak bond.

**Note:** *Prior to installation ensure that wall bonding surfaces and back of veneer are free of dust, laitance, loose concrete particles and any film that could impair bond.*

## **WET THE VENEER AND THE SCRATCH COAT**

When using conventional Type S and Type N mortar always wet the back of each veneer piece as well as the scratch coat before setting the veneer. Brush or spray the surfaces so they appear damp but free of standing surface water. Dry surfaces can cause excessive absorption of water from the mortar and weaken the bond. When using Polymer Modified Mortar consult the mortar manufacturer’s recommendations regarding wetting the veneer and the scratch coat.

## **APPLY MORTAR FOR AN ADEQUATE SETTING BED**

This is extremely important — especially for tight-fit / drystacked installations. The mortar setting bed must cover the scratch coat surface completely and the back of the veneer must be completely covered with mortar. The mortar setting bed should not cover just the perimeter of the veneer back and it should not cover just the center of the veneer back. The mortar setting bed should be applied with a generous coat of mortar applied to the back of the veneer — *or* — onto both the back of the veneer and the scratch coat wall surface. Avoid mortar droppings and smears when using Polymer Modified Mortar since it is difficult to remove.

## SET THE VENEER SECURELY

This cannot be emphasized enough — especially for tight-fit / drystacked installations. The veneer must be firmly pressed into the mortar setting bed, and onto the scratch coat and wiggled — *slightly* — back and forth with a slight rotating action. You must achieve mortar squeeze-out in a volume that results in a full mortar setting bed covering the scratch coat and the back of the veneer completely. Once the veneer has set, it should not be dislodged or the bond may be compromised. Care should be taken to avoid inadvertent movement after the initial set, especially with tight-fit / drystacked installations where veneer pieces are intentionally touching each other.

## SPECIAL CONSIDERATIONS FOR TIGHT-FIT/ DRYSTACKED INSTALLATIONS

Compared to other masonry installations where a grout joint is visible and surrounds each piece, Tight-fit / Drystacked installations don't have this grout joint "safety valve" that improves adherence. So, *always* use a compliant Polymer Modified Mortar and proper installation technique. A full, complete mortar-setting bed is mandatory and will provide an effective seal behind — and around — the stone.

**NOTE:** Grout joint installations using Type S or Type N mortars don't experience "*de-bond*" failures because the grout serves as an additional bonding area around the edges of each veneer piece and tends to lock each piece in place. Grout seals the area surrounding each veneer piece from water infiltration to the back of the veneer. If water collects in the voids behind the veneer, and freezes, expansive forces can cause the veneer to "*de-bond*".

## SUMMARY

Choose the proper mortar. Standard Type S or Type N Mortar is suitable for jointed grouted veneer. For Tight fit / Drystacked applications use a Polymer Modified Mortar complying with ANSI A118.4 or ANSI A118.15 or equivalent.

Ensure that wall bonding surfaces and back of veneer are free of dust, laitance, loose concrete particles and any film that could impair bond.

When applying Type S or Type N mortar, wet the scratch coat and back of each veneer piece. Check the mortar manufacturer's recommendations regarding "wetting" when using Polymer Modified Mortar.

Mix mortar with proper amount of water to make it workable and "*flowable*".

Completely "back-butter" each veneer piece, and press firmly into place.

Ensure complete mortar setting bed coverage and full perimeter "*squeeze out*".

If necessary, use a mortar application method in which mortar is troweled onto the scratch coat and also "back-buttered" onto the veneer.

Do not dislodge previously installed veneer. Mortar bond may be compromised.



Visit [www.creativemines.us](http://www.creativemines.us) for product installation instructions a current list of Dealers and Distributors. Creative Mines Craft Masonry Veneer is hand-designed and handcrafted. It looks like the real thing, so natural variations in color will occur. You should demand that of your crafted masonry veneer. Anything less would be unnatural. Measurements listed are averages and individual product may vary in dimension and weight while maintaining accordance with ASTM specifications. For submittal information and test data please consult your Creative Mines Representative. Creative Mines maintains the right to revise packaging and products inventoried. © 2016 CREATIVE MINES, INC.