

# artisan Life + Style EXTERIOR

## INSTALLATION GUIDE

MODULAR WALL CLADDING

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**Please note, all information given in this document should be considered as a guide only and should be checked against the relevant Australian Standards for trade practices at the time of installation.**

**All information is provided in good faith and should be used in conjunction with site specific considerations. Tips and Guides included do not replace the services of professional contractors/consultants, or the relevant manufacturer's technical data sheet or recommended method of application.**

**Artisan Exterior reserves the right to change, delete or otherwise modify any information in this document without prior notice.**

## CONTACT:

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1300 301 898  
artisanexterior.com.au

## PRODUCT CONSIDERATIONS:

The Artisan Exterior range of Modular Wall Cladding is sourced from varying quarries and manufacturers across the globe. Each stone has unique properties and characteristics dependent on its inherent geological make up.

Our Modular Wall Cladding is the result of thousands of years of formation in all types of weather conditions, as such, variation from batch to batch is expected, in fact it's a big part of what we love about natural stone and what makes it so uniquely beautiful. Samples should only be taken as indicative of colour and variation.

Artisan Exterior recommends inspecting all product upon delivery to ensure the colour and characteristics of the stone meet client expectation and that matching body pieces and corner pieces are consistent with each other.

Always mix cladding evenly from all crates during installation. If the product received does not meet expectations, notify Artisan Exterior PRIOR to installation. Installation of the product constitutes acceptance of the product.

## STORAGE:

Upon delivery, we recommend storing uninstalled product in a dry, protected environment, away from exposure to weather and direct sunlight, single stacked on a firm level surface.

**WALL/SUBSTRATE:**

All substrates should be sound, dry and stable and thoroughly cleaned of any contaminants. A qualified engineer's advice may be required for structural certification.

Off form concrete and tilt panel concrete should be free of any mould release agents, laitance or efflorescence deposits. Surface preparation such as grinding, abrasive blasting or high pressure water blasting may be required to achieve an open pored, textured substrate suitable for adhesion.

The surface must be even and true with a variance of no more than 2mm every 4m, this may require application of an appropriate render (always follow manufacturer recommendations for application).

Concrete block and brick can be rendered (following the manufacturer's instructions for application) in accordance with Australian Standard requirements. The rendered surface should have a wood float finish. For steel troweled finished surfaces, ensure that the surface is mechanically or chemically abraded prior to beginning installation as required.

Render and concrete must be fully cured prior to installation.

**CONTROL & MOVEMENT JOINTS:**

**Note: It may be necessary to consult a qualified structural engineer when considering the layout and design of control and movement joints.**

Control or movement joints originating in the vertical substrate should be carried through the surface of the finished wall, uninterrupted, with a flexible, sealed joint. Joints should be added where the following are encountered:

1. Junctions between different substrate materials.
2. Internal vertical corners.
3. Along weakened plane joints.
4. At fixtures interrupting the stone surface (e.g. columns, beams, finished framework).
5. At horizontal and vertical joints (Approx 3m to 4.5m spacings).

**WATERPROOFING MEMBRANE:**

Based on design, location and usage, a waterproofing membrane may be required. A waterproofing membrane will minimize surface efflorescence and reduce swelling in the substrate caused by extended exposure to moisture.

Artisan Exterior recommends Ardex and Mapei Waterproofing Systems.

Ardex: [www.ardexaustralia.com](http://www.ardexaustralia.com)

Mapei: [www.mapei.com](http://www.mapei.com)

**PRE-SEALING & PRE-GROUT SEALING:**

Dependent on the stone selected and the environment it is being installed in, pre-sealing or pre-grout sealing can assist installation and product stability. This process can be performed prior to adhesion or grouting as applicable. Artisan Exterior recommends Aquamix products for pre-sealing, pre-grout sealing and post installation sealing of natural stone, however it is important to confirm that any pre-sealer chosen is compatible with the intended stone, adhesive or grout. Application should be carried out in strict accordance with the manufacturer's guidelines.

Artisan Exterior recommends Aquamix Cleaning and Sealing Solutions.

Aquamix: [www.aquamix.com.au](http://www.aquamix.com.au)

**WEATHER CONSIDERATION:**

Consider expected weather conditions prior to installation. Conditions below 10 degrees and above 30 degrees Celsius can inhibit adhesion or bonding, rain can cause excess moisture which in turn can weaken the bond strength of adhesive and grout.

Temperature ranges are indicative only, for further information, consult the relevant data sheet of the intended product(s) being used on-site.

**CUTTING:**

It is recommended to use a specialist, high-quality, product specific blade for cutting. Ensure the blade is compatible and approved for use in conjunction with the machinery you intend to use it with.

In most cases, excluding where clean cuts or perimeter cuts are required, Artisan Exterior recommends part cutting Modular Wall Cladding from the reverse side and snapping the piece through to the face edge, this will retain the natural edging of the stone.

A brick hammer can be used to make small adjustments to shape as required.

**Please note: Crystalline silica (silica) is found in sand, stone, concrete and mortar. It is also used to make a variety of products including composite stone, bricks, tiles and some plastics. When cutting, crushing, drilling, polishing, sawing or grinding products that contain silica, dust particles are generated that are small enough to lodge deep in the lungs and cause illness or disease including silicosis. Correct PPE should always be worn and work health safety measures adhered to.**

For more information visit [safeworkaustralia.gov.au](http://safeworkaustralia.gov.au)

**MECHANICAL FIXING:**

Mechanical fixing may be required based on the size and weight of the product and the height to which it will be installed. Mechanical fixing should be used in accordance with the relevant Australian Standards. For additional information contact Artisan Exterior.

**ADHESION:**

For the installation of Modular Wall Cladding it is recommended to use a fast setting adhesive such as Granirapid by Mapei.

Always follow the manufacturer's instructions carefully, mix in small batches and follow the ratios for powder and additive usage accurately.

**MIXING:**

Pour the required amount of additive into a clean mixing container, gradually add the proportionate amount of powder to the additive while slowly mixing. Mix thoroughly with a low-speed mixer until there is a smooth, creamy, homogeneous consistency. Allow to stand for 1-2 minutes and re-stir the mixture.

**FIXING**

1. Ensure the substrate is clean, firm and free of dust, dirt, oil, grease, curing compounds, release agents and other barrier materials.
2. Thoroughly clean the back of the stone of dust or contaminants.
3. Apply a consistent layer of adhesive to the substrate using a 10x10mm or 12x12mm notch trowel, work in controlled areas that allow the adhesive to remain tacky and avoid skinning (moistening the substrate will improve open time).
4. Back butter the entire surface of the stone and promptly apply to the notched adhesive bed.
5. Ensure correct installation by removing a sample piece and checking that full adhesion has been achieved, once confirmed re-install as required.
6. If adhesive firms during suitable pot life, remix to loosen, do not add additional additive or water (unless directed by manufacturer's instructions).
7. If a grout joint has been specified, use plastic or pre-soaked timber wedge spacers\* to achieve the specified joint width. Consideration should be given to the relevant grout manufacturer's min/max joint width recommendations.
8. Vertical progression should be made in alignment with the performance and curing time of the adhesive being used (don't go too high, too fast!).
9. Supports may be required to assist placement and adhesion during curing period.
10. Proactively clean all adhesive from the surface of the stone immediately after installation.
11. Any surplus adhesive must be removed from joints before the adhesive sets.
12. Do not disturb the surface of the stone for a minimum of 24hrs after completion of installation.

*\*Remove spacers and wedges once adhesive has set but not fully cured*

For additional information on aesthetic considerations for the installation of Modular Wall Cladding, contact Artisan Exterior.

Artisan Exterior recommends Mapei Adhesive Systems for Modular Wall Cladding.

Mapei: [www.mapei.com](http://www.mapei.com)

**GROUTING:****MIXING:**

Pour the required amount of clean, cool water into a clean mixing container. Gradually add the proportionate amount of powder while slowly mixing. Mix thoroughly with a low-speed mixer until there is a smooth, creamy, homogeneous consistency and uniform shading of the coloured grout. Allow to stand for 2 minutes and re-stir the mixture.

**APPLICATION:**

1. Check all joints are thoroughly cleaned prior to starting.
2. If pre-grout sealing is required, confirm this has been carried out in accordance with the manufacturer's guidelines and the required curing period has elapsed.
3. Moisten the surface with a damp sponge, do not flood the cladding or allow water to stand in the un-grouted joint.
4. Work grout into the joint making sure all joints are well-compacted and free of voids or gaps
5. If grout firms during suitable pot life, remix to loosen, do not add additional additive or water (unless directed by manufacturer's instructions).
6. Immediately remove excess grout from the surface of the stone with a trowel.
7. Allow the grout to firm in the joint.
8. Fill two buckets of water for cleaning. Use one bucket for cleaning the majority of the grout residue from the sponge, use the other for moistening the sponge.
9. Dip sponge and wring out excess water. Wipe diagonally across the joint, rinse the sponge in the bucket allocated to cleaning the majority of the grout residue, then dip into the second bucket, wring out the excess and repeat the process.
10. Avoid using excessive water and replace water regularly.
11. Ensure all grout residue is cleaned from the surface of the cladding within the time limit specified in the manufacturer's data sheet.

Artisan Exterior recommends Ardex Grout Systems for Modular Wall Cladding.

Ardex: [www.ardexaustralia.com](http://www.ardexaustralia.com)

**CLEANING:**

A final clean of your product should be undertaken once all grout and silicone joints have fully cured (see relevant manufacturer guidelines).

1. Remove excess dirt from the surface of the cladding.
2. Apply the appropriate cleaner\* as outlined in the manufacturer guidelines.
3. Agitate the surface with a scrubbing brush and allow to sit as directed.
4. Remove the cleaner and rinse as outlined in manufacturer guidelines.

*\*Generally speaking, a final clean will require the removal of minor grout residue and surface staining. Each product has different requirements and will dictate which cleaning product is most appropriate. Please contact Artisan Exterior to determine the cleaner best suited to your project.*

**Please note: Acid should never be used without consultation of Artisan Exterior. Acid can damage product surfaces, installation products and sealers and should therefore only be used when applicable.**

Artisan Exterior recommends Aquamix Cleaning and Sealing Solutions.

Aquamix: [www.aquamix.com.au](http://www.aquamix.com.au)

**POST INSTALLATION SEALING:**

Artisan Exterior recommends post installation sealing for all Natural Stone products and considers it an essential step to ensuring the longevity and beauty of the product. Manufacturer instructions should always be followed carefully to achieve the best results for appearance and protection of the stone. For more information on the most appropriate sealing options please contact Artisan Exterior.

**MAINTENANCE:**

All products will require some form of maintenance over time, this will vary from surface to surface and will be heavily dependent on use, location and product type. The product type and maintenance requirement may require cleaning only or a combination of both cleaning and sealing.

Please contact Artisan Exterior to discuss the best suited product to your needs.



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