



# ThinCut™

NATURAL STONE VENEER

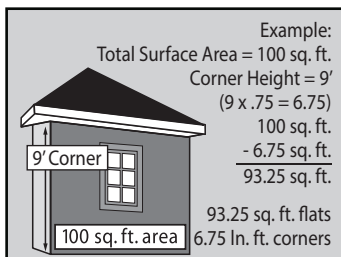
In addition to our line of full veneer, Semco Stone® also offers our ThinCut™ Natural Stone Veneer. ThinCut™ is available in depths that average one inch thick and is only one quarter the weight of full veneer. The reduced weight allows this veneer to be installed where full veneer cannot be used or is too difficult, such as dormers, gables, and existing interior and exterior structures. ThinCut™ can be applied to any structurally sound surface, including any masonry surface, concrete block, brick, cement, wallboard, plywood, paneling or metal buildings. ThinCut™ is durable, beautiful, and adds value to any home or business.

*"Natural Stone for any place and every space."*



## CALCULATING NECESSARY MATERIALS:

Begin by figuring the square footage of the area you plan to cover with stone. If your project includes corner stones, deduct .75 square foot for each linear foot of corners that you will utilize. Semco's ThinCut™ Natural Stone Veneer is packaged assuming a 1/2" mortar joint. If your joint will vary from this number you must adjust your quantities accordingly.



## TIPS & TOOLS:

- Keep you and your natural stone clean during the installation process. Be sure to keep your hands clean throughout the process.
- It is important to allow excess mortar to dry on the face of the stone. DO NOT remove it prior to hardening. Use a stiff brush and clean water to remove the dull residue. If heavy cleaning is necessary after installation, a stone cleaner such as those manufactured by ProsoCo can be used. Refer to manufacturer instructions for proper use.
- To prevent mud or any other substance from blemishing the appearance of your natural stone, place straw or protective material on the ground where rain or water can cause mud to splash onto your natural stone.
- Do not use acid to clean excess mortar from your natural stone. Discoloration may occur if acid is used.
- All natural stone should be applied according to local building codes. Water infiltration can result in damage caused from incorrect installation or the absence of such things as caulking, flashing, water proofing, guttering and down spouts. Stone should be installed at least 3" above grade level to prevent water from continually saturating behind the back of the stone and causing structural damage.

## RECOMENDED TOOLS:

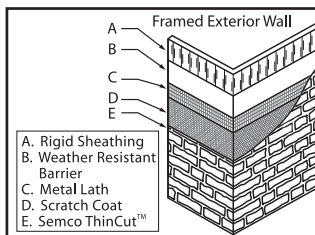
Brick Hammer, Brick Trowel, Notched Trowel, Flat Trowel, Joint Tool, Grout Bag, Masonry Brush, Safety Glasses, Dust Mask, Masonry Sand & Cement, Selected Semco ThinCut™ Natural Stone Veneer.

The materials that you will need to prepare for your ThinCut™ Building Stone Veneer depend on what type of surface material you will be working with. Following is a list of surface areas and preparation requirements for each.

## DETERMINING THE CORRECT SURFACE PREPARATION:

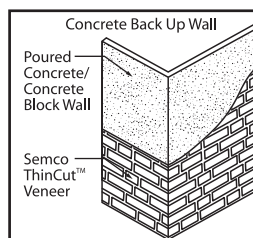
**SURFACE TYPE:** Framed Exterior Wall Including Plywood Paneling, Wall Sheathing, or Flush Metal Siding

**SURFACE PREPARATION:** Cover surface with a weather resistant barrier such as tar paper, be sure to lap joints 4" in a shingle fashion. In accordance with local building codes, install metal lath on top of the weather resistant barrier using galvanized nails or screws 6" on center vertically and 16" on center horizontally, penetrating the studs a minimum of 1". Stop the metal lath 1" from the finished edges. Be sure to wrap all corners overlapping the metal lath at least 4".



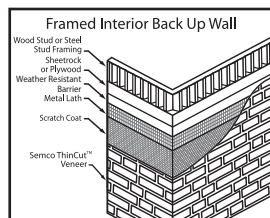
**SURFACE TYPE:** Interior or Exterior Cleaned and Untreated Concrete, Masonry or Stucco

**SURFACE PREPARATION:** Be sure to inspect new concrete to insure there is no release agents (form oil) on the surface. If release agents are identified, etch the surface of the concrete with muriatic acid and rinse thoroughly and/or score with a wire brush. Surfaces that have been painted must be sand blasted or otherwise stripped of paint. To clean concrete, masonry or Stucco, sand blast or water blast surface and remove any sand blasting dust by washing the surface thoroughly. If it is difficult to remove paint you may securely attach metal lath on the surface with concrete nails. In accordance with local building codes, install metal lath using galvanized nails or screws 6" on center vertically and 16" on center horizontally penetrating the studs a minimum of 1". Stop the metal lath 1" from the finished edges. Be sure to wrap all corners overlapping the metal lath at least 4".



**SURFACE TYPE:** Framed Interior Wall including Plywood, Sheetrock, Green Sheetrock or Fiber Cement Board

**SURFACE PREPARATION:** Cover surface with a weather resistant barrier such as tar paper, be sure to lap joints 4" in a shingle fashion. In accordance with local building codes, install metal lath on top of the weather resistant barrier using galvanized nails or screws 6" on center vertically and 16" on center horizontally, penetrating the studs a minimum of 1". Stop the metal lath 1" from the finished edges. Be sure to wrap all corners overlapping the metal lath at least 4". (It is not necessary to use expanded metal lath on fiber cement board unless required by local building codes.)



## SCRATCH COAT, MORTAR & GROUT:

Dry mix the sand and the cement together to avoid creating clumps in the mixture. Add water slowly to the mixture a little at a time, continually mixing until you have achieved the consistency of a paste or whipped potatoes. Mix a minimum of 5 minutes.

### MIXING AND APPLYING THE SCRATCH COAT:

Scratch Coat: 1 part Type S Masonry Cement to 2 1/2 parts Sand

If a scratch coat is necessary, use a masonry trowel to apply a 1/2" to 3/4" layer of cement over your metal lath. Cover the entire area of the lath, working the cement into the holes and scraping off any excess. Use a notched trowel to lightly rake horizontal grooves in the scratch coat while the cement is still slightly wet and allow to dry 24 hours.



### MIXING MORTAR AND APPLYING THE STONE:

Mortar with a bonding agent:

Option 1: 3 parts Type S Masonry Cement to 7 parts Masonry Sand with Bonding Agent (According to Manufacturer's Directions) and Water

Option 2: 3 parts Portland Cement to 2 parts Latex Thinset Mortar (According to Manufacturer's Directions) with 7 parts Masonry Sand and Water

Mortar without a bonding agent:

Option 1: 3 parts Type S Masonry Cement with 5 to 7 parts Masonry Sand and Water

Option 2: 2 parts Portland Cement with 1 part Lime and 5 to 7 parts Masonry Sand and Water

Before applying the stone, it is a good idea to lay the stone out flat to determine the sizing and colors of each individual piece, how they will be laid out for your project and if any trimming is necessary.



If cutting the stone is necessary, a Skillsaw with either a dry or wet cut diamond or masonry (Carborundum) blade will work. You may also want to use a masonry hammer to break the stone, giving it a more natural appearance. A nipper can be used to trim small amounts off the stone. Be certain that the surface of the stone is free of dust, dirt or any loose particles. If necessary, wash the stone completely and allow to dry. Use a masonry

brush to dampen the back of the stone, but do not saturate it. This prevents the stone from pulling moisture away from the mortar allowing it to dry naturally and with a stronger bond. To lay the stone, use a masonry trowel to butter the back of the stone with 1/2" to 1" layer of mortar. Using your trowel, create a ridge around the outside back of the stone, this will create suction when putting the stone in place which will help to hold the stone until the mortar sets up. Lay the stone against the wall, pressing and rotating slightly, forcing some of the mortar to squeeze out freely.

When laying stone, attempt to keep joints a consistent height and width. Normally vertical and horizontal joints should be staggered to prevent long unbroken lines that may draw the eye to a particular area. Semco recommends installing all corner pieces first, alternating short and long lengths as they are stacked.



### APPLYING THE GROUT:

Grout: 1 part Type S Masonry Cement to 2 parts Sand

Use a grout bag or trowel to fill all joints. If using a grout bag, cut a hole approximately 1/2" in the tip of the bag. Fill your grout bag about half full with your grout mixture. Twist the top end of the bag and squirt a small amount into a bucket to prevent air pockets. Fill all the joints between the stones with about a 1/2" layer of mortar, more or less depending on the desired effect. As the grout stiffens, tool to the desired depth. Brush the joints with a whisk broom to smooth them out and clean away any loose mortar. Grout is ready for finishing when it crumbles away like sand when brushed. If the grout smears or falls away in large chunks, it is still too wet for brushing or striking. Finally, use a soft bristled brush to sweep the dust off the stone. Refer to Tips & Tools for information on cleaning the stone in case mortar or grout gets on the surface of the stone.



### SEALING YOUR STONE:

If using a sealer, carefully follow manufacturer's directions when applying the product. If using a sealer, it is important to keep in mind that they must be reapplied periodically and may alter the appearance or color of your natural stone.