



HOUSTON DESIGNER STONE

FIELD DOCUMENT • 2026

INSTALLATION SERIES 01

Field Installation Guide

Ultra-thin flexible & illuminated
natural stone systems

FOR QUALIFIED INSTALLERS & TRADES

Plan • Mock up • Verify • Install • Inspect

EDITION 1.0 | SEPTEMBER 2026 | HOUSTON, TEXAS



BEFORE YOU BEGIN

Read this before opening adhesive

A fast field check that prevents expensive rework.

SCOPE OF THIS GUIDE

This document provides general planning and workmanship guidance. The project drawings, product data, substrate manufacturer, adhesive manufacturer, applicable code, and licensed trade requirements always govern.

1

Confirm the exact assembly

- Match the delivered stone, backing, finish, and intended application to the approved order.
- Confirm whether the installation is non-illuminated veneer or a translucent/backlit assembly.
- Read the current data sheets for the selected adhesive, sealer, grout, trim, lighting, and substrate.

2

Build one representative mockup

- Use actual stone, substrate, adhesive, joint treatment, finish, and lighting.
- Review color, seams, corner details, bond, surface protection, and cleaning method.
- Obtain written approval before production installation.

STOP WORK AND CONTACT HDS / THE PROJECT DESIGNER IF:

- ✗ Stone or finish differs from the approved sample
- ✗ Substrate is damp, unstable, dusty, oily, or unapproved
- ✗ Site temperature or humidity is outside product limits
- ✗ Sheets show concealed damage or unacceptable variation
- ✗ Electrical or fire-safety details are unresolved

NATURAL MATERIAL

Every sheet is a unique layer of real stone. Color movement, veining, texture, minor edge irregularity, and mineral inclusions are inherent characteristics. Sort and approve the full layout before bonding. Do not install visibly unacceptable material.

PLANNING

Build on a sound substrate

Bond performance begins with the surface—not the stone.

1 FLAT

Correct irregularities before installation. Flexible stone follows the plane beneath it; it does not hide waves, ridges, or joints.

2 CLEAN

Remove dust, oil, wax, release agents, loose paint, laitance, adhesive residue, and incompatible coatings.

3 DRY & STABLE

Verify moisture, cure time, movement, deflection, and adhesion using the relevant product and substrate standards.

SUBSTRATE REVIEW

DRYWALL / CEMENT BOARD	Sound, finished, dust-free; reinforce and treat joints as specified.
CONCRETE / MASONRY	Fully cured; remove laitance; confirm moisture and alkalinity.
WOOD PANELS	Stable, flat, sealed where required; allow for movement.
METAL / GLASS / LAMINATE	Degrease and abrade/prime only as the adhesive maker directs.
EXISTING FINISHES	Bond test required. Remove weak, glossy, contaminated, or incompatible layers.
WET / EXTERIOR ASSEMBLY	Use a complete, approved waterproofing/drainage system—not adhesive alone.

DO NOT BRIDGE MOVEMENT

Honor structural, control, expansion, and perimeter joints through the finish where required by the project design. Flexible stone is not a crack-isolation membrane.

RECORD BEFORE WORK

- Substrate type and preparation method
- Moisture / bond-test results
- Room and surface conditions
- Mockup approval and batch/layout photos



PLANNING

Dry layout the complete composition

Treat the natural variation as part of the design.



1

UNPACK

Open carefully. Inspect faces, backs, corners, finish, and labels before cutting.

2

RELAX

Lay sheets flat in a clean, dry area. Follow the product instructions for acclimation.

3

SORT

Arrange by tone, movement, texture, and focal areas. Mix sheets intentionally.

4

MARK

Number the backs and photograph the approved composition. Never mark the face.

5

SET LINES

Establish level, plumb, center, joint, edge, opening, and termination references.

6

PLAN CUTS

Keep narrow cuts away from focal edges; confirm outlets, trims, corners, and access panels.

FACE PROTECTION

Test low-tack tape on a remnant before use. Do not leave tape in place longer than necessary, apply it to an incompatible sealer, or allow adhesive to cure on the face.



FABRICATION

Cut cleanly. Test first.

Tool choice depends on the HDS product, cut geometry, and finish.

MEASURE

Tape, square, straightedge, level, templates

CUT

Approved fine-tooth or diamond cutting system; stable support

FIT

Files, abrasives, hole tools, profile samples

SET

Notched trowel, clean roller/pressing tool, spacers

PROTECT

Gloves, eye/hearing protection, dust control, respirator as required

CLEAN

Lint-free cloths and approved neutral cleaner

CUTTING SEQUENCE

1 MARK BACK



2 SUPPORT



3 CUT / DRILL



4 DRESS EDGE



- Test the full method on scrap or a concealed sample. Confirm face orientation before every cut.
- Support the sheet completely; prevent vibration, tearing, heat damage, and surface scratching.
- Use extraction or wet methods only when compatible with the tool and product. Follow silica and jobsite safety rules.
- For openings, respect device clearances and corner radii. Never conceal unsafe electrical conditions.



INSTALLATION

Create continuous, controlled contact

Use only an adhesive approved for the exact stone, backing, substrate, and exposure.

ADHESIVE COMPATIBILITY

Do not choose adhesive by brand familiarity alone. Verify bond, open time, cure, temperature, moisture resistance, chemical compatibility, and whether the adhesive may be visible through translucent material.

1 PREPARE

Protect adjacent finishes. Mix or load adhesive exactly as directed. Observe pot life.

2 COMB

Use the approved trowel/notch. Keep a consistent angle and work only within open time.

3 PLACE

Align to control lines without trapping air. Do not slide contaminated material across the face.

4 PRESS

Use a clean roller or pressing tool from center outward. Apply uniform pressure without crushing texture.

5 VERIFY

Lift a test area while fresh to confirm coverage. Correct ridges, voids, or transfer immediately.

6 CLEAN

Remove fresh adhesive with the approved method. Never flood seams or use aggressive solvent on stone.

FULL-BED CONCEPT — SECTION, NOT

No isolated blobs
No trapped air pockets
No dry edge bands

PREPARED SUBSTRATE

ADHESIVE

STONE



DETAILS

Resolve joints, edges & corners

Choose the detail during the mockup—not while adhesive is open.

OPEN / GROUTED JOINT

Use approved spacing and compatible grout or sealant. Typical visual ranges may be 1/16–1/8 in, but project documents govern.



TIGHT JOINT

Dry-fit and approve. Apply adhesive so edge coverage is complete without squeeze-out onto the face.



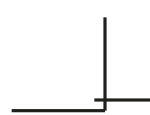
PROFILED EDGE

Use an approved L, T, U, inside-, or outside-corner profile where protection or a crisp transition is needed.



EDGE-TO-EDGE

Overlap one return over the adjacent edge. Dress and finish the exposed edge consistently.



MITER / REVEAL

Fabricate only after a sample confirms the backing, edge, and finish can tolerate the operation.



PERIMETER / MOVEMENT

Use the specified flexible sealant and backer arrangement. Do not fill movement joints with rigid grout.



FIELD SEQUENCE

Install and finish a sample of every unique joint, corner, trim, outlet, and transition. Keep face protection clean; remove it at the time directed. Photograph concealed details before closing them.



FINISHING

Seal, clean & protect

Surface treatment changes appearance—always test on the approved material.

1 Test

- Use an offcut from the actual project lot.
- Allow treatment to cure fully before approval.
- Check color enrichment, sheen, texture, and edge behavior under project lighting.

2 Apply

- Follow coverage, coat, dwell, and cure instructions.
- Maintain a wet edge and avoid puddles or lap marks.
- Protect adjacent glass, metal, wood, fabric, and finished surfaces.

3 Clean

- Start with a dry, soft, lint-free cloth.
- Use only pH-neutral products approved for the stone and sealer.
- Do not use acids, abrasives, harsh solvents, steam, or flooding unless specifically approved.

4 Protect

- Keep traffic, water, dust, and impact away during cure.
- Use breathable protection compatible with the finish.
- Do not trap construction moisture beneath plastic or tape.

WET, EXTERIOR & HEAT-EXPOSED LOCATIONS

- Require a project-specific assembly review.
- Waterproofing, drainage, flashing, vapor control, and movement joints are separate systems.
- Confirm freeze/thaw, UV, service temperature, chemical exposure, slip, fire, and code requirements using current documentation.
- Fireplaces and heat sources require clearances, noncombustible construction, and temperature-rated components.

CURE TIME

Do not grout, seal, energize backlighting, wash, load, or release the area until the adhesive and finishes reach the required cure. Site temperature and humidity can extend the schedule.



ILLUMINATED SYSTEMS

Design the light and stone together

A backlit stone feature is an engineered assembly—not stone placed over a lamp.

ASSEMBLY PRINCIPLES

- Approve a full-size illuminated mockup with the actual slab/sheet.
- Map translucency, fissures, patching, overlaps, seams, and support shadows.
- Provide uniform light, diffusion, thermal management, and ventilation.
- Keep drivers, dimmers, wiring, and serviceable components accessible.
- Coordinate attachment, waterproofing, fire performance, and edge light control.

SERVICE ZONE

REFLECTIVE BACK / FRAME

LIGHT CAVITY

DIFFUSION / SUPPORT

STONE FACE

LIGHTING COMMISSIONING

OFF REVIEW

Inspect face, seams, trims, fasteners, and surface finish in ambient light.

ON REVIEW

Check hotspots, banding, shadows, color shift, glare, dimming, and edge leakage.

THERMAL REVIEW

Operate at design output; verify temperatures and ventilation after stabilization.

HANDOVER

Label circuits and drivers; provide controls, access instructions, and spare components.

LICENSED WORK

A licensed electrician must design and execute electrical work where required. The architect/engineer of record must approve structural attachment, enclosure, fire, and environmental details.



CLOSEOUT

Inspect. Document. Care.

The installation is complete only when the system is verified and handed over.

FINAL QUALITY WALK

- ✓ Approved layout and orientation maintained
- ✓ Edges, corners, joints, and transitions complete
- ✓ No hollow areas, loose edges, adhesive residue, or damage
- ✓ Surface treatment uniform and fully cured
- ✓ Movement and perimeter joints remain functional
- ✓ Backlighting uniform at all programmed scenes
- ✓ Drivers, controls, and service access labeled
- ✓ Protection removed; owner care package delivered

PROJECT RECORD

PROJECT / ROOM

STONE / LOT

INSTALLER

ADHESIVE

SEALER / GROUT

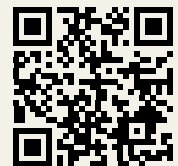
MOCKUP APPROVAL

INSTALL DATE

PHOTOS / NOTES

OWNER CARE — SIMPLE RULES

- Dust with a soft cloth; clean spills promptly.
- Use only approved pH-neutral stone-care products.
- Test every new cleaner in a concealed location.
- Keep this guide, product data, finish records, and spare material together.



PROJECT SUPPORT

Scan to contact HDS

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hdesignerstone.com

REVISION CONTROL

Confirm that this edition and all referenced product documents are current before each project. Keep approved substitutions and field decisions in the project record.