

# Gather Co

## Tips For Installation

Walling

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# Meeting Expectations



## Product Variation

Variation has been carefully considered when producing our surface collections. Colour, tone, composition, and texture are all naturally occurring characteristics of stone and will always differ from piece to piece.

Variation may also result in significant inconsistencies when delivered product is compared to any samples presented. That said, variation is in no way considered a material defect. It's precisely what makes stone so uniquely beautiful.

Please be sure to seriously consider these inherent characteristics whenever assessing the suitability of any Gather Co surface.

It is always recommended to mix all batches supplied for a single installation to ensure natural variation is seamlessly blended.



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## 1. INSTALLATION FORETHOUGHTS

When selecting any product across the Gather Co collection, consideration must be given to ensure each product is appropriate for the intended application.

Gather Co is pleased to provide the following advice in addition to the product sale. In almost all cases, we recommend following the direction of qualified and experienced construction professionals. These tips are to be used in conjunction with the relevant Australian Standards including (*but not limited to*) AS3958.1 & 2, as well as all corresponding instructions from our supply partners.

Gather Co recommends sampling installation procedures prior to commencing any site works. This prerequisite will ensure appropriate measures have all been adequately addressed.

Gather Co has partnered with highly reputable industry leaders to supply the very best in waterproofing, grouts, adhesive and sealing products. When applying our recommended products, it is always advised to follow the procedures and specifications of our supply partners.

### 1.1 Supply Partners

Our recommended installation accessory brands are:

- LATICRETE®: 1800 331 012 / [www.laticrete.com.au](http://www.laticrete.com.au)
- ARDEX®: 1800 224 070 / [www.ardexaustralia.com](http://www.ardexaustralia.com)
- ACTICHEM™: 1300 278 264 / [actichem.com.au](http://actichem.com.au)

When deciding on suitable products, the following must be taken into account:

### 1.2 Storage

Once delivered, uninstalled product must always remain completely protected from all weather exposure including direct sunlight. Single stacking of pallets and crates on firm, level ground is also essential.

### 1.3 Drainage

Under the direction of a qualified engineer, always undertake pre site evaluations to incorporate necessary measures for effective moisture dispersal.

### 1.4 Substrates & Foundation Works

A high quality finish always begins with a high quality substrate. Stone wall coverings are extremely heavy. This means that vertical

substrates must be engineered and erected to manage these considerable loads.

Host substrates must also be entirely flat and true, with deviation not to exceed 2mm over 4m. Where larger inconsistencies exist, an appropriate render should be applied in accordance with the manufactures specification.

Masonry/concrete substrates should be sufficiently cured as per the manufactures specification and not have a moisture equilibrium greater than 75% relative humidity as measured with moisture probes.

Prior to commencing any stone installation, ensure the substrate is thoroughly cleaned of all surface contaminants.

### 1.5 Movement Joints

Movement or control joints are an essential component of hard surface installations. Their purpose is to accommodate the effects of expansion and contraction. Unmanaged thermo generated movement can cause surface cracking and synthetic adhesives to fail.

Joints originating in the vertical substrate must be maintained, without interruption through to a flexible sealed joint at the stone walling surface. Supplementary joints should also be applied:

- In a grid set-out to an approximate spacing of 3 to 4.5m.
- Along all weakened plane joints.
- Along all junctions where differing substrate materials meet.
- Along all foreign fixtures that disrupt the stone surface, e.g. columns and beams.
- Along all internal vertical corners.

Always seek the direction of a qualified structural engineer when designing the set-out for movement joints.

### 1.6 Render

Appropriate masonry substrates may have render applied to establish the minimum allowable surface level tolerance of +/- 2mm in 4m. Gather Co suggests the application of Laticrete 3701 Fortified Mortar Bed.

It is crucial to follow all procedures and specifications as detailed by Laticrete when applying this product. For further direction, consult Laticrete directly:

LATICRETE®: 1800 331 012 / [www.laticrete.com.au](http://www.laticrete.com.au)



## 1.7 Waterproofing & Moisture Management

As part of the vertical substrate design, consideration must be given to waterproofing and moisture management. Attention to both issues will assist in:

- Minimising the development of surface efflorescence.
- Reducing swelling in the substrate caused by sustained moisture exposure.

Where applicable, Gather Co recommends the application of Laticrete's full Hydro Ban System. This must extend to the top course of external stone wall clad installations. Only adequate waterproofing and capping will prevent moisture entering between the stone and substrate.

LATICRETE®: 1800 331 012 / [www.laticrete.com.au](http://www.laticrete.com.au)

## 1.8 Weather Conditions

Another important consideration for the installation process is weather. Temperatures over 30 degrees celsius may result in loss of moisture and rapid shrinking of the bonding and adhesive layers. Alternatively, rain can add excessive moisture, causing wetter, weaker bonds. Always work within the atmospheric perimeters, as specified by our supply partners, whenever applying their product(s).

## 1.9 Pre-Sealing

The process of dip sealing (sealing all six sides) prior to laying certain surfaces, particularly around pools, may be a consideration. Surfaces that are highly porous or moisture sensitive may also require sealing prior to installation.

Always seek manufacturers advice before pre-sealing to ensure the correct product is used and that the process won't affect the bond of the chosen adhesive. An example of a quality pre sealer is Defender CSD 50 from Actichem.

ACTICHEM™: 1300 278 264 / [actichem.com.au](http://actichem.com.au)

Please refer to the: "How to Dip Seal Surfaces" downloadable document for direction on this procedure.

## 1.10 Mechanical Fixings

Vertical installations must always consider the significant loads associated with walling stone. This may include engaging the direction of a structural engineer and the implementation of mechanical fixings. Stone Clip is an industry leader in such fixings. Please contact them directly for further detail fastening options and access to their specifications.

STONE CLIP®: 0403 679 998 / [www.stoneclip.com](http://www.stoneclip.com)

## 2. INSTALLATION GUIDE

In general terms, walling installations typically employ the adhesive method. Gather Co offers details on this procedure as a guide only. Ultimately, all decisions attaining to the most appropriate method of installation, fall to the installer.

Always consult a qualified and experienced engineer whenever unsure.

### 2.1 Adhesive Installation Method

Gather Co has partnered with Laticrete to supply the very best in adhesive products. For standard installations with no special considerations, we suggest the use of:

- Laticrete 335 Premium Flexible Adhesive or
- Laticrete 335 Rapid Premium Flexible Adhesive (*for moisture sensitive surfaces*).

It is crucial to follow all procedures and specifications as detailed by Laticrete when applying these products. For further direction, consult Laticrete directly:

LATICRETE®: 1800 331 012 / [www.laticrete.com.au](http://www.laticrete.com.au)

#### **Adhesive Composition:**

Place potable water into a clean pail and add adhesive powder. Mix by hand or with a slow speed paddle mixer until a smooth, trowelable consistency is achieved. Use approximately 5 – 5.5 litres of water per 20kg bag. Allow adhesive to slake for 5 – 10 minutes. Mix again without adding any additional water or powder.

#### **Laying Technique:**

General installation tips for applying our suggested adhesives are as follows:

1. Thoroughly clean all contaminants from both the vertical substrate & stone, prior to beginning installation procedures.
2. Apply a consistent layer of adhesive using a 10x10mm or 12x12mm notch trowel at 8-10mm thick. Only spread as much adhesive as can be laid in 10 - 15 minutes or whilst adhesive is wet and tacky.
3. Back butter the entire reverse side of each stone piece directly preceding placement.
4. Position stones and use care to gently manoeuvre each piece into its final setting. Always ensure no significant voids are captured under newly seated product as this will compromise adhesion.
5. Ensure full coverage is being achieved by removing an installed sample stone. Verify complete adhesive coverage and adjust installation technique accordingly if needed.



6. Where grout joints or coursing are specified as part of the desired final aesthetic, use plastic or pre-soaked timber wedge spacers.
7. Proactively clean any adhesive contamination from the exposed surface of newly installed stone. This must be done immediately following each stone placement
8. Remain vigilant for 'slump' and always ensure that the rate of vertical progression is appropriate.
9. Do not disturb freshly laid stone for a period of at least 24 hours.

It is crucial to follow all procedures and specifications as detailed by Laticrete when applying their adhesives. For further direction, consult Laticrete directly:

LATICRETE®: 1800 331 012 / [www.laticrete.com.au](http://www.laticrete.com.au)

## 2.2 Cutting

Stone cutting is most effective when carried out with a sharp diamond blade. We strongly recommend the use of a high quality wet bench saw. Always wash each piece directly after every cut to avoid saw residue accumulating and drying to stain the exposed surface.

**WARNING:** Crystalline Silica (or silica dust) is a naturally occurring mineral found in soil, sand and stone. It is also commonly used in the manufacturing of countless construction materials including bricks, porcelain and terracotta. Silica exposure has been extensively documented to cause a broad range of serious health issues. Adequate PPE is essential when engaging in any kind of contact with Silica dust. Furthermore, appropriate safety guidelines relating to silica exposure must always be adhered to on all construction sites

## 2.3 Sealing

Sealing is an essential step in the installation process and paramount to maintaining the aesthetic of stone surfaces.

Gather Co has partnered with Actichem to supply the very best in sealing products. Solv Sealer Gold is their premium natural look sealer and does not alter the stones raw appearance.

Sealing should always be carried out in two phases.

1. Once product has been laid and prior to grouting.
2. Following grouting and only after the final surface clean up has been thoroughly completed.

It is always our recommendation to follow the direct guidance of Actichem when applying any of their products:

ACTICHEM™: 1300 278 264 / [actichem.com.au](http://actichem.com.au)

## 2.4 Grouting

Grout application is an important final stage to 'locking in' newly installed surfaces. We recommend the following Ardex products:

**FG-8** - standard cement grout for joints up to 8mm in width.

**WJ-50** - specially formulated cement grout for wide joint openings of above 9mm in width.

The procedure for applying these products is as follows:

1. Thoroughly clean all vacant joints prior to grouting.
2. Apply grout to joints, ensuring the entire void is completely filled.
3. Immediately remove any significant grout excess with trowel tool.
4. Sponge the entire exposed surface with clean water.
5. Follow cure times as dictated by Ardex.

For superior results, always follow Ardex's specifications and guidelines:

ARDEX®: 1800 224 070 / [www.ardexaustralia.com](http://www.ardexaustralia.com)

## 2.5 Clean Up

Final clean up should only occur once all grout joints have completely cured:

1. Sweep all loose contamination from installed surface.
2. Generously apply a pH neutral cleaner to the installed surface.
3. Gently agitate the surface with a stiff broom.
4. Remove all residue from surface with a wet-vac or squeegee.
5. DO NOT use acidic cleaners without engaging a qualified and experienced stone cleaning professional. ProNeutro from Actichem is a new generation, neutral pH detergent that is great for natural stone surfaces.

Contact Actichem directly for further direction on their range of surface cleaning products:

ACTICHEM™: 1300 278 264 / [actichem.com.au](http://actichem.com.au)

## 2.6 Cure Periods

The recommended minimum cure periods for new installations, under standard conditions (21° C) is 2 days.



### 3. MAINTENANCE OVERVIEW

Ongoing maintenance regimes may vary from surface to surface. Regular cleaning will reduce the risk of soiling through dirt, mould and efflorescence. Please refer to our “Maintenance Guide” document for further detail on compatible products and best practice procedures.

#### 3.1 Cleaning

ProNeutro from Actichem is a new generation, neutral pH detergent that is great for natural stone surfaces. A cleaning professional should only attempt the use of acid based products on stone surfaces.

For further advice, please contact Actichem directly:

ACTICHEM™: 1300 278 264 / [actichem.com.au](http://actichem.com.au)

#### 3.2 Re-Sealing

Both Solv Sealer Gold & Defender CSD 50 by Actichem will provide ultimate protection for up to 15 years. That said, application methods, weather conditions, traffic and invasive cleaning chemicals may significantly reduce this timespan. We highly recommended sealers be re-applied every 5 – 7 years in commercial settings or where harsh conditions exist.

For further advice, please contact Actichem directly:

ACTICHEM™: 1300 278 264 / [actichem.com.au](http://actichem.com.au)



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