

Thank you for choosing BuildersChoice Stone™ for your project. Stone veneer products do not require regular maintenance, however this guide will help you keep your project looking beautiful.

Cleaning during and after installation

During installation, the setting materials will bond to the surface of the stone veneer if they make contact are not promptly removed. Stone veneer may also become stained by mud or water. Clean any stains promptly and never allow mortar stains to set up overnight. Do not use acid, acid base products or pressure washers to clean the surfaces.

Brooming, tooling or sweeping wet joints with a brush may cause staining that will be difficult to remove. To avoid this, mortar joints should be broomed and tooled to desired look after mortar becomes firm.

Cleaning dirt

Use a soft bristle brush to scrub the stone surface with clean water. Gentle granulated powder detergent mixed in water may be used on particularly tough stains, but make sure the detergent contains no bleach. Rinse well with clean water after brushing. Some stains may require professional grade cleaners. BuildersChoice Stone™ recommends cleaners by Aqua Mix®. When cleaning, always test on an inconspicuous surface before cleaning the entire affected area. Do not use acid, acid base products or pressure washers to clean the surfaces.

Scuffing

All stone veneer will experience some surface scuffing during the manufacturing, shipping and installation process. This is a normal occurrence with natural stone products as well. Scuffing typically enhances the aesthetics of the installed stone veneer by making it resemble the look of natural stone. Light scuffing can be removed by cleaning with a soft bristle brush or wet sponge.

Stone sealing

Generally, BuildersChoice Stone™ veneer products do not require sealing. However, sealing can be safely applied to the product. It may be desirable to apply a sealer in certain applications, such as where the stone veneer may be exposed to frequent staining agents, such as mud or grease. In such cases, BuildersChoice Stone™ recommends the use of Aqua Mix® sealers. Some sealers can affect the color and sheen of stone veneer. For best results test the sealer in an inconspicuous area first and always follow manufacturer's instructions. Do not apply sealers before the stone veneer is fully cured in place.

Efflorescence

All masonry products, including stone veneer can occasionally develop efflorescence, which is a white, powdery deposit that occurs especially on freshly installed masonry surfaces. These deposits typically appear in moist and cold conditions and disappear naturally over time. To remove efflorescence, allow the stone to dry thoroughly and scrub with a bristle brush and clean water. For stubborn deposits, mix 1 part white vinegar and 10 parts water. Scrub the area using a soft bristle brush and rinse well with clean water.

Stone veneer protection

Concrete and masonry products are vulnerable to damage from salts, ice removal chemicals and chemicals used in swimming pools and fountains. Do not use these types of products on areas immediately adjacent to an application of BuildersChoice Stone™ veneer.