

1. Initial Preparation

Prepare a clean and accessible working environment with suitable access and sufficient working space. Inspect and double check all materials prior to commencing work to ensure no issues once building is underway.

2. Wall Preparation

The Plus+Clad panels require a suitable backing material for proper adhesion. Due to the panel weights, we recommend adhering to either concrete blockwork or a suitable construction / cement board. The surface to be clad should be clean, level and structurally sound.

3. Setting Out

It is always advisable to fully set out your cladding before installation. This can be carried out using a string line and chalk, and will enable you to spot any issues and make any adjustments to the setting out before you start installing your cladding; this is especially important for irregular areas where specific cuts may be required. Where corner units are being used at external returns or reveals we recommend setting out from a full corner unit to minimise cuts at the corners.

4. Installing the Plus+Clad System

Each stone should be cleaned with a sponge and clean water to remove any dust or loose material prior to fixing. This will help prevent poor bonding to the base material. Apply a suitable cladding adhesive to the wall to be clad and to the back of the cladding panel using a notched trowel, giving full coverage of the back of the panel (not spot bedded). Offer the panel up to the wall and slide into place to ensure no voids are present behind the panel and that full adhesive coverage is achieved.

Once in place, secure each panel back to the substrate using two Plus+Clad brackets and a mechanical fixing. Each bracket sets into a preinstalled fixing channel set into the back of each panel, and is designed to lock each panel into place whilst assisting in keeping the panels at an even depth.

Check that each panel is level and adjust as required. Repeat this process for each panel.

The Plus+Clad system is designed so that each of the panels interlocks for easy coursing and installation. Only minimal cutting should be required to suit irregular heights, details or runs, with the majority of the cladding requiring no/minimal cutting or alteration.

Please note that this installation guide is intended as a non-specific, general advisory guide only. It is your responsibility to ensure that your installation complies with all current building regulations, planning requirements and structural guidance applicable to your specific project. If in doubt, always consult with a suitably qualified builder, architect and structural engineer in order to ensure that your intended installation is suitable for your project. Always follow the manufacturer's guidance for all adhesives, mortars, fixings and any other products used in conjunction with products sourced from Cumbrian Stone, and if in doubt seek professional advice before going ahead.

This guide is to be read in conjunction with all current/relevant regulations and mandatory installation requirements and is not intended to form part of any warranty or guarantee. Cumbrian Stone accepts no liability for any issues that may arise due to incorrect installation of your natural stone products.

5. Cutting

Any cutting required should be carried out using a suitable, water suppressed power/tile saw. Different stones require different blades for cutting, and it is important to ensure that the correct blade is used to avoid damaging your stone and to give the best finish.

For small cuts, piecing in etc. we recommend that the majority of the cladding is installed, with cuts and small pieces fitted once an area has been completed.

6. Pointing

The Plus+Clad system does not generally require pointing between each panel, however it may be desirable to fill any wider/open joints with a cement pointing mortar to close these and make them less visible.

7. Protecting Your Cladding as you Build

It is important to keep your cladding protected and clean as you build. Clean off any mortar/adhesive splashes straight away, and keep your cladding protected from the elements to avoid mortar/adhesive failure due to curing too quickly or drying out. Follow the mortar/adhesive manufacturer's instructions regarding minimum/maximum temperatures for building (generally building should not be undertaken at temperatures below 3 degrees Celsius).

8. Safety Warning - Building Without Fixings

The Plus+Clad system is supplied with mechanical fixing brackets, and is not suitable for an "adhesive-only" fix due to the panel weights. The Plus+Clad brackets must be used for all installations.

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