

ELDORADO STONE®

GEMSTONE™ *MediaWall*™



THE MOST BELIEVABLE ARCHITECTURAL STONE VENEER IN THE WORLD™

# GETTING STARTED



before



## *Suggested Locations*

LIVING ROOMS

BEDROOMS

ENTERTAINMENT ROOMS

The unexpected combination of high tech media and rustic charm constructs Eldorado's Gemstone MediaWall. Slim profile high-def flat screens, Blu-ray DVD Players and 3D televisions give designers and homeowners unique ways to display, utilize and experience their entertainment options.

Eldorado Stone's Gemstone MediaWall redefines the ordinary media cabinet by combining a uniquely-curved brick wall, a flat screen TV,

surround sound speakers and component shelving to create an integrated entertainment experience.

The juxtaposition of the modern media components and rustic brick molded from century-old European dwellings creates a striking visual statement.

Explore this Idea Book to learn how to build an authentic masonry wall that is attainable, purposeful and most of all, believable.

## Before You Begin

Please review our complete installation instructions at [www.eldoradostone.com](http://www.eldoradostone.com) before beginning this Gemstone Wall. The following installation tips are designed to add additional detail and understanding on how to accomplish these unique installations.

## SELECT LOCATION AND DETERMINE MEDIA STORAGE NEEDED

Establish the area to be covered with stone or brick and determine the desired component storage. Consider all elements needed, your available space and desired design. New framing is needed for the depth of the wall, the component storage and the hidden wiring. If you choose to create a curvilinear design, additional framing considerations are important and necessary.

## SELECT THE ELDORADO STONE PROFILE AND COLOR DESIRED

Selecting flatter Eldorado Stone or Brick profiles will allow for easier mounting of flat screen televisions. Regardless of the profile, consider installing a mounting block to fasten the flat screen bracket in advance before installing the stone or brick. Determining the Eldorado Stone and Brick profile, color and grout technique is important before you begin construction.

## Recommended Eldorado Stone and Brick for MediaWall

*The MediaWall showcased in this Idea Book uses Hartford TundraBrick. You may wish to use a different profile. The following profiles are also recommended. Please visit: [www.eldoradostone.com](http://www.eldoradostone.com) to view additional profile colors.*



Hartford  
**TUNDRABRICK®**



Meseta  
**FIELDLEDGE®**



Sanibel  
**COASTALREEF™**



AlderWood  
**STACKED STONE**  
*Best applied to flat MediaWall installations.*



Bracciano  
**ROMABRICK®**



Oyster  
**CUT COARSE STONE™**  
*Best applied to flat MediaWall installations.*



**HARTFORD** *TundraBrick with a Standard Joint technique. Though this representation illustrates a Standard technique, the MediaWall shown employs the Overgrout technique.*



**VENETO** *Fieldledge with an Overgrout Joint technique.*



**CAMBRIA** *Cliffstone with a Dry-Stack Joint technique.*

**GROUT TECHNIQUES**

The MediaWall employs a rustic grout technique called: Overgrout. This technique tends to make the stonework appear rustic and aged. The grout overlaps the face of the stone or brick which widens the grout joints making them very irregular. Since this old-world technique connotes different things to different people, you should make sure and have your mason prepare a mock-up before beginning any actual work.

**OVERGROUT JOINT**

Each piece is laid 0.5” apart. The grout should overlap the face of the veneer, widening the joints and making them very irregular.

**STANDARD JOINT**

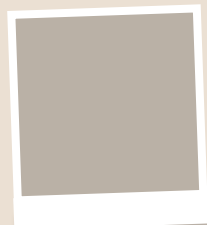
Each piece is laid 0.5” apart. A grout bag is used to fill joints with mortar and force grout into any voids. The joints are then struck back to expose the edges of each stone.

**DRY-STACK JOINT**

A Dry-Stack joint technique is accomplished by “dry” fitting each veneer piece prior to installation. Each piece can be laid with virtually no joint. Even though you’ve used mortar to set the veneer to the surface, when complete, the finished look will appear as though no mortar was used to install the veneer. The intent of a Dry-Stack look is a tightly stacked natural stone appearance. If you plan to install a dry-stack joint, consider using a colored mortar that is close in color value to the stone.

**Helpful Grouting Tip:** *Eldorado Stone looks more attractive when you add color to a standard gray grout. The grout color used on the MediaWall employs a warmer gray palette, adding to the authenticity of an aged brick wall.*

*For more information on coloring grout see page 9.*



## STEP TWO

## Framing, Electrical, Audio/Visual Connections



The media component opening is approximately 30" from floor.

### FRAMING

Framing will be required to create the desired depth, curvature and height. Standard 2 x 4 construction can be used to frame the space. If built-in media component storage is desired, additional framing supports should be added before stone or brick installation. Dimensions

### MediaWall Dimensions

**Overall dimensions from existing wall:**

Length: 12' on back side, 10' "point to point"

Width: 24" returns on each side

Height: 8'

**Dimensions of media component opening:**

Rough opening: 10.25" high x 72.25" wide

Location: Approximately 30" up from floor

**Approximate curve of wall:**

Front "point" to deepest (middle) "point" is (approx) 10"

**2" x 2" Metal Tubing**

Used to create corner detail and return for brick installation

will vary depending on room size and desired design.

It is also recommended (but not required) to install an access door on one of the return walls. This will allow for easier access to media components and electrical wiring that will be behind the wall.

## ELECTRICAL

Special consideration should be made in advance for electrical, media component wiring, surround sound systems and more. It is highly recommended you consult with an audio/visual or remodel professional in the pre-planning stages of your Gemstone MediaWall.

In addition, consult with the appliance manufacturer for proper electrical and ventilation requirements.

## SHEATHING

- Apply 0.5" ply-wood sheathing over wood stud framing.
- Install custom shelf (if desired) for media component storage.

## Flat MediaWall

*Note:* For less difficult MediaWall installations simply install Eldorado Stone or Brick on a flat wall per Eldorado's recommended stone or brick installation instructions (at [www.eldoradostone.com](http://www.eldoradostone.com)).

Create a channel in the framed cavity of the wall to allow for the HDMI, electrical and cable to be hidden from site. It is recommended that you consult with an Audio / Visual professional before beginning stone or brick installation.

See example illustration below:



## STEP THREE

## Preparing the Surface for Eldorado Stone



*Install weather-resistant barrier and metal lath.*



*Attach lath with galvanized nails or staples.*



*Cover entire lath with mortar and score mortar horizontally.*

### WEATHER-RESISTIVE PAPER

Install one layer of weather-resistant barrier for interior applications. For exterior applications, two layers of weather-resistant barrier is required. Where vertical joints occur, overlap by at least 6". Where horizontal joints occur, overlap by at least 2". Start the paper from the bottom and move up.

### GALVANIZED METAL LATH

Install self-furred 2.5 lb. or higher galvanized metal lath. Overlap lath sides by at least 1" and wrap corners 16". Attach lath (with small cups pointing upwards) with galvanized nails or staples 6" on stud center vertically, and 16" on stud center horizontally.

### SCRATCH COAT

Use premixed Type N or Type S mortars. Apply 0.5" thick coat of mortar. Cover the entire lath with mortar. The mortar should be scored horizontally with a notched scarifier.



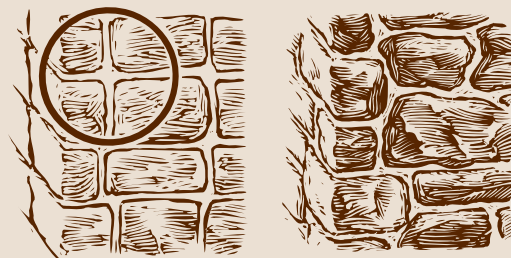
## PREPARING THE SETTING MORTAR

When installing Eldorado Stone and Brick begin by moistening the scratch coat and veneer with water to reduce initial absorption. Apply a 0.5" layer of mortar to the back of the stone. For applications other than Dry-Stack installations, start your installation from the top and work down. For Dry-Stack applications review the complete installation instructions first.

Download comprehensive installation instructions at: [www.eldoradostone.com](http://www.eldoradostone.com) before you begin building the Gemstone MediaWall.

## Helpful Tips

Depending on the profile selected, chalk lines may be desired to grid the wall and keep the joints straight. Lay out a minimum of 25 sq. ft. of veneer on the floor to ensure a selection of random color hues and a variety of shapes are selected for installation.

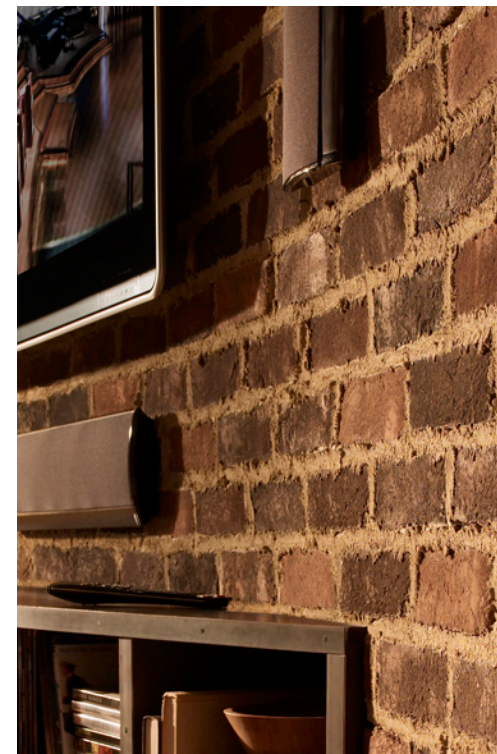


**CAREFUL!** Avoid the awkward “+ sign” pattern (left) that can occur if installed incorrectly. Locate the individual stones so the grout joints are staggered (right).





*Adding color to the mortar can create an attractive combination.*



*Overgrouted brick.*

## SELECT GROUT TECHNIQUE AND COLOR

Remember that selecting a grout technique and applying the grout is just as important as laying the stone. You can, and many times should, add color to the mortar (as an accent) to more closely match the brick or stone. Care should be taken to be assured that the color emulates a natural earthen sand color. As previously mentioned, the MediaWall featured employs a rustic and old-world overgrout technique.

Accomplishing this look takes careful planning and a qualified mason. Test samples with some loose stones on a board before grouting the actual wall.

## STANDARD GROUT TECHNIQUE

- Use grout bag to fill joints with mortar and force grout into voids.
- Keep the face of the stone clean (unless you want a slurry finish) because smeared mortar will permanently stain the stone. If mortar gets on the veneer, let it set until dry and crumbly and brush off with a dry whisk broom.
- Don't allow joints to fully harden before tooling. Mortar should be pliable and crumbly, not too wet and not too dry.

- Don't grout more than you can manage at one time. Joints can be tooled with specific masonry tools or with anything you find easy to use. A stick is often the tool of choice.
- Use a whisk broom to smooth joints and clean away any loose mortar from the joints and veneer face.

## OVERGROUT SPECIAL RECOMMENDATIONS

- Overgrout technique smooths the mortar to a plane flush with the stones face and tends to make the stonework appear rustic and aged.
- The grout overlaps the face of the stone, widening the joints and making them very irregular.
- If desired, a sponge can be used to wash the joints and expose the aggregates of sand within the mortar. Be cautious not to get the wet mortar on the stone surface as this will stain the stones. If wet mortar from sponging the joints gets on the stone surface wash it immediately with clean water.

## DRY-STACK SPECIAL RECOMMENDATIONS

- If you plan to install a dry-stack joint, consider using a colored mortar that is close in color value to the stone.

ENJOY!

The Gemstone MediaWall complete



## The MediaWall from Eldorado Stone.

*Eldorado Stone's Gemstone MediaWall redefines the ordinary media cabinet by combining a uniquely-curved Eldorado Brick wall, a flat screen TV, surround sound speakers and component shelving to create an integrated entertainment experience.*

***Eldorado Stone. The Foundation for Memorable Spaces.***



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Eldorado Stone® stone veneer should only be applied to structurally sound surfaces incorporating good building practices meeting all local code requirements. Before starting any stone application, check with your local building code requirements and read all manufacturers' installation instructions.