

ELDORADO STONE®

GEMSTONE™ *ZenWall*™



THE MOST BELIEVABLE ARCHITECTURAL STONE VENEER IN THE WORLD™

# GETTING STARTED



before



## *Suggested Locations*

- MASTER BATHROOMS
- MASTER SUITES
- OUTDOOR RETREATS

Create your escape – the Gemstone™ ZenWall™ brings the soothing permanence of the outdoors inside. The serene style of the Far East relies on the subtraction of clutter and the tactile beauty of natural elements. Build your own tranquil space in the bath, bedroom, outside or anywhere you can imagine a relaxing retreat. The ZenWall delivers tradition as well as being fresh and contemporary.

It achieves this through its use of clean, linear shapes, dry-stacked without visible mortar – tactile, stable, and peaceful. Each Gemstone Wall has been carefully crafted to create an authentic masonry stone wall that is attainable, purposeful and, most of all, believable. Create your own ZenWall escape by following our step-by-step recommended specifications.

## Before You Begin

Please review the 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 OF WALL AND PRE-DETERMINE ANY FRAMING NEEDS

The ZenWall can be created as an entirely new space or as a remodel of an existing wall. The location should be carefully selected because it will become a predominant architectural statement.

Before you begin, determine whether you will need to frame any part of your wall. This Idea Book shows the conversion of an existing wall. The addition of a centered pillar element supports the existing plumbing. As always, consult with your local building code official before beginning this Gemstone design.

## SELECT THE ELDORADO STONE PROFILE AND COLOR DESIRED

Each individual Eldorado Stone profile creates its own distinct appearance in a range of scale, texture and surface depth. The finished installation — from refined to rustic, contemporary or traditional — can be achieved depending upon the stone selected. Eldorado also offers a multitude of colors to choose from. The ZenWall is created with a Dry-Stack grouting technique, best achieved through the recommended profiles below.

Determining the Eldorado Stone profile and color is important before you begin construction.

## Recommended Eldorado Stone for ZenWall

The ZenWall showcased in this Idea Book uses Oyster Cut Coarse Stone. You may wish to use a different profile. The following profiles and colors are also recommended. Please visit: [www.eldoradostone.com](http://www.eldoradostone.com) to view additional options.



Oyster  
**CUT COARSE STONE™**



Black River  
**STACKED STONE**



Pearl White  
**COASTALREEF™**



Dry Creek  
**STACKED STONE**



Montecito  
**CLIFFSTONE®**



Bitterroot  
**MOUNTAIN LEDGE**



*Dry-Stack grout technique with Oyster Cut Coarse Stone was specified for the ZenWall represented in this Idea Book.*

### DRY-STACK JOINT

The profiles recommended for the ZenWall — *Cut Coarse Stone, Stacked Stone, CoastalReef, Cliffstone and Mountain Ledge* — are designed to install as a Dry-Stack joint. Because the ZenWall has a very specific and characteristic atmosphere, we recommend only using the Dry-Stack technique.

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.



*Before: The bathroom featured a traditional design.*



*After: The ZenWall dramatically changes the mood of the room.*

#### DETERMINING PLUMBING INSTALLATION AND POTENTIAL FRAMING

Eldorado Stone replaced the plain wall of an ordinary bathroom with a serene, modern rectilinear stone style. The dry-stacked Cut Coarse Stone is clean and uncomplicated, creating the spa-like atmosphere shown above.

The ZenWall may never require any framing depending on the structural features of the wall you create. The example in this book is installed in a bathroom and must make considerations for the existing plumbing.

Before commencing preparation it is important to compensate for the depth of the Eldorado Stone specified in the installation. You can find out the depth of a particular Eldorado Stone profile at [www.eldoradostone.com](http://www.eldoradostone.com). The profile sizes are located in the “Download” page of the website.

Once you select a stone, you can make sure that any architectural features — such as the dividing pillar, or placement of the bath tub in this Idea Book's example — allows Eldorado Stone to transition cleanly.

This example of the ZenWall transformed an

existing wall. Whether you are making a conversion like this or starting from scratch, you will want to contact a skilled contractor, mason, plumber or electrician depending on what you want to achieve with your ZenWall.

## STEP THREE

## Preparing the Surface for Eldorado Stone



Ready for weather-resistant barrier.



Attach lath to weather-resistant barrier.



Wall ready for mortar scratch coat.



Cover entire lath with mortar.



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.



Apply a layer of mortar to back of veneer. Start at the bottom and work up. Consult [eldoradostone.com](http://eldoradostone.com) for detailed installation instructions.

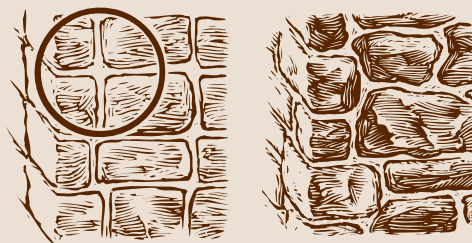
## PREPARING THE SETTING MORTAR

When installing Eldorado Stone begin by moistening the scratch coat and veneer to reduce initial absorption. Apply a 0.5" layer of mortar to the back of the stone. For Dry-Stack applications, start from the bottom and work up.

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

## 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).

**BEHOLD!** ..... *The Gemstone ZenWall complete*



**The ZenWall from Eldorado Stone.**

*Congratulations, you now have your very own Eldorado Stone Gemstone Wall.*

*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.