

Most Frequently Asked Questions

To answer your questions about Cultured Stone® products, how they can be used and installed, we have compiled this list of questions and answers. For additional information and literature you can call us toll free, fax us or visit our website. See back page for details.

Q. What are Cultured Stone® products ?

A. Cultured Stone® is the registered brand name for our extensive line of manufactured stone veneer products. It is also the company name for the world's leading producer of manufactured stone.

Q. Is this real stone?

A. Cultured Stone® products are manufactured stones with the additional advantages of lightweight and ease of installation plus global availability.

Q. What are Cultured Stone® products made of?

A. Cultured Stone® products are cast in molds taken from carefully-selected natural stone, using a process that faithfully captures even the faintest detail. Each color and texture uses its own blend of Portland cement, lightweight natural aggregates and iron oxide pigments. Even on close examination, these manufactured stones look and feel just like the originals.

Q. How can I get cost information and who quotes installed prices for Cultured Stone® products?

A. Contact your local dealer for prices and/or names of installation contractors who can provide quotes on your project. Call 1-800-255-1727 or visit our website at www.culturedstone.com for dealer locations.

Q. How do Cultured Stone® products compare in cost with natural stone?

A. Cultured Stone® products installed cost is usually much lower than the installed cost of natural stone. Cultured Stone® products require no additional footings, foundations or wall ties, and installation time will be considerably less than when using natural stone.

Q. How are Cultured Stone® products sold?

A. Flat pieces are sold by the square foot, corner pieces by the linear foot, hearth pieces and trim products are sold by the piece.

Q. How are Cultured Stone® products packaged?

A. Flat Cultured Stone® products are available in various package types: for example flat stone comes in Big Boxes on a pallet that cover 90 square feet or Handi-Pak® cartons covering 11.25 square feet of wall area. Other packaging varies for corners, specific textures and trim products.

Q. How heavy are Cultured Stone® products?

A. The weight of Cultured Stone® products is approximately 8-12 lbs. per square foot.

Q. Will Cultured Stone® products fade?

A. Colors become an integral part of Cultured Stone® products during the casting process. Existing applications show no undesirable change in color after years of weathering in various climatic exposures globally.

Q. Does the color go all the way through?

A. Base color is blended throughout the entire product. Color overtones are applied and integrated into the product during the casting process.

Q. Will the same stone appear repeatedly in a typical application?

A. Cultured Stone® products are cast from thousands of individual molds essentially eliminating repetition. In addition, to further eliminate the possibility of repetition, no two stones are ever reproduced with the exact same coloring.

Q. How long will Cultured Stone® products last and are they warranted?

A. As Cultured Stone® products are a lightweight concrete material, they will last as long as any quality concrete or masonry material such as concrete block, brick etc. Cultured Stone® products carry a 50 year limited warranty.

Q. Do they meet Building Code requirements?

A. Yes. Cultured Stone® products comply with applicable building code requirements. Details of building code approvals, listings and releases are outlined in our Installation Instructions. These can also be viewed on-line on our web site - www.culturedstone.com.

Q. What kind of surface is necessary in order to use Cultured Stone® products?

A. Cultured Stone® products may be applied over any properly prepared, clean, untreated, structurally sound wall surfaces such as wood, wallboard, masonry or metal. See the Cultured Stone® Installation Instructions for details.

Q. How are Cultured Stone® products adhered to wall surfaces?

A. Cultured Stone® products are installed using regular Type N Portland cement mortar over a properly prepared substrate. See Cultured Stone® Installation Instructions or website for complete details.

Q. Can Cultured Stone® products be used on both exterior and interior applications?

A. Yes. Cultured Stone® products are suitable for both, and allow you to bring the outdoors inside, emphasizing design and continuity in color and texture.

Q. Can Cultured Stone® products be applied over other surfaces such as brick or other materials?

A. Yes. Details on application and substrates are given in the Cultured Stone® Installation Instructions and on our website.

Q. Can Cultured Stone® products be used on fireplace facings or the wall behind a free-standing stove?

A. Yes. Cultured Stone® products have been tested and classified by Underwriters Laboratories Inc. as a non-combustible material (UL Classification #209T). Test results showed zero flame spread and zero smoke developed. Always refer to the fireplace or stove manufacturers installation instructions and local building codes.

Q. Will Cultured Stone® products stain if my fireplace smokes?

A. Possibly, just as natural stone or brick will. Sealing the Cultured Stone® products facing of a fireplace installation will assist in the removal of smoke stains should they occur. Smoke stains can often be removed by following instructions given in the Cultured Stone® Installation Instructions.

Q. Can Cultured Stone® products be used on walkways or patios?

A. No. Cultured Stone® products are not suitable for foot traffic. However, our 2 3/8" Terra Craft® cobblestone paver and our Water Wash pavers may be used for walkways and patios. 3 1/8" San Francisco Cobblestone® driveway pavers are also available.

Q. Can Cultured Stone® products be used on wall areas adjacent to swimming pools?

A. From a durability standpoint, Cultured Stone® products will perform the same as any quality lightweight concrete

material. However, it should be noted that as with any concrete or natural material, continued exposure to chlorine and other chemicals may eventually affect coloration. When frequently exposed to water, we recommend protection with a non-film forming breather-type masonry sealer.

Q. Should I color the mortar?

A. Cultured Stone® product applications are enhanced when mortar is tinted to complement or match the stone color using iron oxide mortar colors available from Cultured Stone® dealers.

Q. Can Cultured Stone® products be cut?

A. Yes. Cultured Stone® products are easily cut and trimmed using a hatchet or wide-mouth nippers, or with a masonry blade used with a circular or masonry saw.

Q. Is any maintenance required?

A. Occasional washing to remove surface dust and dirt is all that is required. Cultured Stone® products are virtually maintenance-free.

Q. How many product types are available?

A. Cultured Stone® products provide the largest variety of colors and textures available in any manufactured stone line. There are 19 textures available in over 80 colors. Refer to our texture and color choices in literature or on our website for the complete selection of Cultured Stone® products.

Q. Are there any installations in my area that I may visit and examine?

A. The Cultured Stone® dealer in your area will be able to give you job locations where Cultured Stone® has been installed. Call 800-255-1727 or visit our website for the dealer nearest you or forward the on-line e-mail or fax inquiry form.

Q. What is the average thickness of Cultured Stone® products?

A. 1 3/4" average (from 1" to 3" depending on texture).

Q. Who manufactures Cultured Stone® products?

A. Cultured Stone® products are manufactured by Cultured Stone - A Division of Owens Corning, the world's leading producer of manufactured stone. Cultured Stone® products have over 39 years of proven performance globally. Production facilities are located in Napa, California, Navarre, Ohio, and Chester, South Carolina.