

## **Stonepanel FAQs Updated February 2022**

### **■ What is Stonepanel?**

- Stonepanel® is a decorative cladding made up of natural stones bonded to a cement base reinforced with glass fibre mesh. Stonepanel® Sky incorporates a hook in the back to allow for mechanical fix in addition to the adhesive.

See **SUPPORTING INFORMATION O STONEPANEL SKY**

- Each piece is Z-shaped in order to make the joints look less obvious, simple to install with minimal waste. Weighs, dependent on the type of Stonepanel between 75 to 95kg/m<sup>2</sup>. The product that is BBA certified is manufactured in China, we import it in full containers and hold stocks available in the UK (Vobster and the Scottish yard).
- There is now production of new stone types of Stonepanel Sky being made in Portugal (Infercoa and Sabbia) as the manufacturer looks to reduce its reliance on Chinese production and these (along with other stone types) will be added to the BBA in time but in the meantime is manufactured to the same production guidelines but cannot be sold as BBA certified.
- Infercoa is a type of slate that is mined in Portugal, see [Find out Infercoa quarry CUPA STONE in Portugal!](#) for a video of the size of the quarry
- Sabbia is travertine type of stone that is mined in Turkey and taken to Portugal to be manufactured into Stonepanel.
- Who manufactures Stonepanel?
  - Cupa Stone; part of the Cupa Group who are the world's largest producer of slate (Cupaclad is produced by Cupa Pizzaris which is part of the Cupa Group of companies but a different division)
  - Stonepanel is sold exclusively in the UK by Taylor Maxwell
  - Stonepanel is the only product of its type that holds BBA certification (albeit currently that does not cover the Portuguese production)
- See **SUPPORTING INFORMATION S Stonepanel BBA quick summary**
  - Each factory has complete quality and traceability control

### **■ What size are the Stonepanel pieces?**

- (originally Stonepanel was made 610(560)x152mm :0.085m<sup>2</sup> per piece/11.77No. per m<sup>2</sup> however other than old stocks this has been phased out) It is now 600(550)x200mm (0.11m<sup>2</sup> per piece/9.1No. per m<sup>2</sup>)

### **■ How do I get information on how to fix Stonepanel?**

You can share this link for an installation video (although please do mention that the way they show on-site mitring of Stonepanel pieces for corners is not recommended by us). Purpose made corner units are supplied for this <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=OGsFyt0tKyc>

### **● What should Stonepanel be fixed to?:**

- The BBA is based on Stonepanel fixed back to 'solid walls of masonry or concrete' up to 2 metres adhesive only and above 2 metres to be adhesive with the mechanical fix (Sky Hook)

- The BBA for Stonepanel does not apply when fixing to cementitious or proprietary board but from previous experience the product assurance contained within the BBA allied to site specific documentation has been acceptable on other projects.
- See [SUPPORTING INFORMATION A Stonepanel onto cementitious Board for example email that can be copy and pasted](#)
- See also [SUPPORTING INFORMATION N How do I fix Stonepanel](#)

#### • How high can I install Stonepanel?

- This depends upon the supporting wall. The BBA certification which covers application to masonry wall calls for adhesive only below 2 metres and adhesive + the Stonepanel Sky mechanical fix above this. The BBA refers to an ultimate wind load to be resisted by the system calculated in accordance with BS EN 1991-1-4:2005 +NA(1) or BS 6399-2:1997. There is no such certification for fixing back to cementitious or proprietary board although once again the mechanical fix ability of Stonepanel Sky allows greater heights to be achieved.

#### • How quickly can Stonepanel be installed?

- It is estimated to be 10 times faster than traditional random walling and has far less waste and mess. Typically a 2&1 gang can install 20 to 25m<sup>2</sup> per day.

#### • How can we form corners and window reveals with Stonepanel?

- Corners of buildings can be formed using Long and Short Corners, these are faced on end pieces where one of each is needed on each course. Alternatively, and as a more satisfactory finish then we can supply L-shape corners known as 'Massive Corners', these are offered in three types of sizes: S, M and L.
  - See [SUPPORTING INFORMATION B: four different documents showing Long/Short Corners and Massive Corners S, M and L](#)
  - [Also SUPPORTING INFORMATION P Long & Short Corners](#)
  - [Also SUPPORTING INFORMATION Q Massive Corners](#)
  - It is not possible to make Massive Corners in Portuguese manufactured Stonepanel and only Long/Short corners can be offered
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- Window and door reveals can be formed also by using Long and Short Corners (short corners used to the reveal and cut to size on site with alternating Long and Short to the front face of the façade) or L-shape corners ('Massive Corners') alternating courses of S and M with the smaller legs cut to suit the reveal size. Should Stonepanel be cut to suit the window or door opening and not returned into the reveal then the exposed , cut end must be protected.
  - See [SUPPORTING FAQ INFORMATION C – images of two different options for window and door reveals using Long/Short corners or Massive Corners M&S. Also using Stonepanel copes for reveals.](#)

## Do I need to cut Stonepanel?

- Yes; whilst as much planning is possible there will always be a necessity to cut  
See [SUPPORTING INFORMATION M Typical setting out of Stonepanel example](#)
- Can be cut with standard masonry tools always assuming the tiles are washed to remove all of the cementitious staining.

## • Do I need to incorporate movement joints:

- The placement of movement joints would be the decision of the structural engineer. Installation of the Stonepanel must respect the location of the movement joints of the building. A flexible sealer is used in any movement joint to avoid the entry of moisture.
- See [SUPPORTING INFORMATION D Photo of a movement joint \(in this instance 14R-T-MF Orient Gold\)](#)

## • Does Stonepanel need to be pointed:

- The nature of Stonepanel means that it does not need to be pointed however it is a possibility if so desired.

## • How do I clean Stonepanel?

- No chemical products should be used, instead the face should be cleaned using a light power wash with clean water or hand washed with care taken not to draw adhesive across the face.

## • Is Stonepanel and the adhesive watertight?

- No. The adhesive is cement based and this allied to the open joint and permeable nature of Stonepanel mean it will allow water to pass through which would be managed in the same way as any external leaf construction.

## • What types of Stonepanel are available in the UK?

- We look to keep stocks of Stonepanel and its associated corners in the following types in the UK: Orient Gold 14R/T-MF, Black Slate 19A-MF, Nordic Dark 23RB-MF, Multicolour 24A/T-MF, Jet Dark Thin Slate 39TS/T-MF, Sahara 49R-MF and Gneiss 55N-MF
- We also keep stocks of Portugeuse Production: Infercoa and Sabbia.
- [SUPPORTING INFORMATION L Stonepanel Types](#)
  - Naturally certain orders may clear us out of some types from time to time so always check current stocks. We are happy to bring other types in for specific orders as long as we can make up full containers.

- **Does Taylor Maxwell supply the screw fixing for the Sky clip also?**

- No. Because every substrate is different, we do not actually supply the screws and plugs for this but we can provide information from Fischer. The BBA asks for a safety factor of 3 when fixing to a masonry wall and Fischer produce their plugs to a safety factor of 7 (which is far greater) and have suggested their SX plugs : Ø4.5mm for the SX 8 using stainless steel screw. Ensure that the screw is 5mm longer than the plug + plate to be fixed (The Sky Clip is available from TM and we stock these to be able to supply with orders)
- See SUPPORTING FAQ INFORMATION E for details of the SX plug and a report on different types of concrete blocks with different fixings.

- **Do I need to support Stonepanel above window and door openings?**

- The underside of the Stonepanel needs to be supported with a lintel such as natural stone or metal. If the choice of material is not waterproof an additional waterproof layer should be considered.
  - See SUPPORTING INFORMATION F Use at door and window openings

- **Can I use Stonepanel to build curved walls?**

- Short corners can be used to facet curves, we have achieved down to 4 metres by doing this. Radial Curve Short and Long (Circular S and L) as options for radii less than 3 metres and over 3 metres respectively provide more of a curved finish to faceting.
  - See SUPPORTING FAQ INFORMATION as two examples of curves achieved.
  - Also SUPPORTING INFORMATION R Can I use Stonepanel to build curved walls?

- **Can I incorporate weepholes & airvents?**

- Slots can be cut in the Stonepanel tiles to allow the insertion of weep vents, likewise it can be cut to fit around airbricks. Another solution is to use a tube as a weep vent, see photos attached.
  - See SUPPORTING INFORMATION H incorporating weep holes and air vents

- **Can I use Stonepanel in fireplaces and hearths?**

- Cupa have provided us with an information sheet that addresses enquiries regarding fires and stoves near to Stonepanel. Stonepanel cannot be directly in the flames although we have done many projects where Stonepanel is clad around stoves.
  - See SUPPORTING INFORMATION I Use near flames

- **Can I use Stonepanel in a soffit?**

- Stonepanel has not been tested for use in soffits and there is no way of using the Sky hook so we are unable to recommend this.

- **An architect has enquired about fixing signage to the Stonepanel, is this possible?**
  - The fixings would need to go through the Stonepanel and into the support wall behind.

### **Can we offer copings / cappings for Stonepanel?**

Types: Orient Gold, Multicolour, Nordic, Sahara or Gneiss

Sizes: 600mm long x 250mm wide, 300mm wide, 350mm wide & 400mm wide, 550mm long and 600mm wide.

- Two thicknesses in each type: 40 to 50mm and 25 to 30mm
- Four options for edges: Chipped, ¼" Bevelled, Full Bullnose or Square



See [SUPPORTING INFORMATION J Cappings](#)

Also [SUPPORTING INFORMATION V Stonepanel Coping sizes](#)

- **Can I use Stonepanel below DPC?**
  - We have done many projects with the Stonepanel below DPC using the reassurance of section 10 of the BBA:

## **10 Durability**



10.1 Tests carried out on the panels indicated that the bond between the stone finish and the cement base of the panels was not affected by freeze–thaw conditions or by thermal shock, and therefore will have adequate durability.

10.2 The durability and service life of the panels will depend upon the building's location and use, and its immediate environment.

10.3 Provided regular maintenance is carried out as described in section 9 and in accordance with the Certificate holder's instructions, the product will have a service life in excess of 30 years.

See [SUPPORTING INFORMATION T Example of incorporating a DPC with Stonepanel](#)

Also [SUPPORTING INFORMATION U Alternative base course Brick stall riser](#)

- **Are other products similar to Stonepanel the same?:**

- Alternatives such as Tier, Z-Clad, Centurion, Norstone may be cheaper than Stonepanel but not necessarily direct comparisons.
- If there are a lot of high up areas to be clad, NHBC and other such agencies will not accept a stone cladding above 2 metres without the mechanical fix. Stonepanel Sky comes with an integrated hook to achieve this with BBA certification, alternative products require a hook to be inserted in the tile meaning additional wastage and lack of quality control.
- Look out for alternative products weighing circa 33kgs / m2. Stonepanel weighs between 80 to 90kgs/m2. These other products will be thinner and in reality compare more with a thinner version of Stonepanel known as Decopanel however it is not recommended for use externally.

▪ See SUPPORTING INFORMATION K analysis comparison ZCLAD – STONEPANEL

Also SUPPORTING INFORMATION W Other what appear to be similar products are cheaper

Also SUPPORTING INFORMATION X Other what appear to be similar products are cheaper PART 2

Also SUPPORTING INFORMATION Y Other what appear to be similar products are cheaper PART 3

Also SUPPORTING INFORMATION Z Example of Tier mechanical fix