

# Compact DesignClad | Product Guide



London Stone®



The Compact DesignClad collection is the latest addition to the DesignClad range.

Compact DesignClad enables a sleek, contemporary finish at an affordable price. Available in eight attractive, stylish colours, this quality material is supplied in versatile 1200 x 600 x 9mm sheets.



ALMERIA ASH DESIGNCLAD



ALMERIA BEIGE DESIGNCLAD



VALENCIA GREY DESIGNCLAD



VALENCIA WHITE DESIGNCLAD



SIENNA BLUE DESIGNCLAD



SIENNA COPPER DESIGNCLAD

Edge Profile .....	Surface Finish
Square .....	Smooth
Options Available .....	Tolerance
1200 x 600 x 9mm .....	n/a

# Handling Instructions

DesignClad has sharp edges, especially when cut. We strongly recommend that gloves are worn at all times during handling. Flexing can damage the product, take great care to avoid flexing during handling.

- ▶ Always wear gloves.
- ▶ Do not allow material to flex.
- ▶ Always stack upright.
- ▶ Use foam and other types of soft packing when stacking or resting the material.



✓ The 1500x1000mm DesignClad slabs must be removed from their box by two people situated in parallel.



✗ Do not position yourself opposite your workmate to remove the ceramic slabs from the box.



✓ Hold the ceramic slab with both hands and raise it slowly. Do this at the same time as your workmate.



✗ Do not remove the ceramic slab holding it by the corners.



✓ When the ceramic slab is in a vertical position lift it, keeping it always upright.



✗ Do not hold or transport the ceramic slab in a horizontal position.



✓ Position protectors when the ceramic slab is resting on any surface.



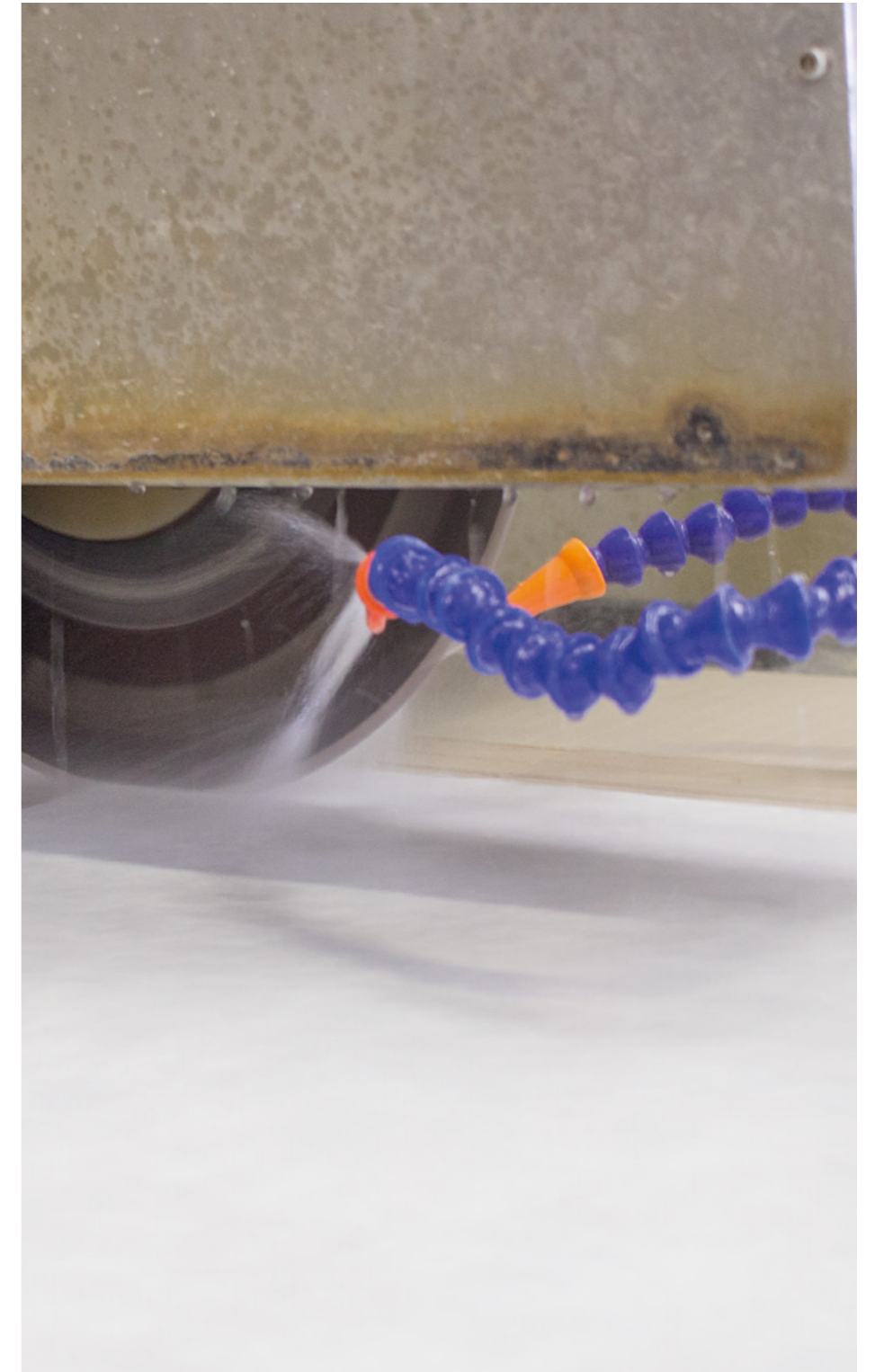
✗ Do not rest the ceramic slab on any surface without protectors.

# Cutting

DesignClad is a high specification product. Precise cutting is required to achieve the optimum finish. For complete accuracy use the London Stone in-house cutting service. If you do intend to cut this material on site, we recommend following these guidelines:

- ▶ Wear appropriate PPE. (Eye protection, respirator if dry cutting and ear defenders).
- ▶ Use an appropriate Continuous Rim Porcelain blade.
- ▶ Cut DesignClad wet using a fixed table saw.
- ▶ Or you can use a plunge saw and rail system and cutting on plyboard to give a level surface and minimise vibration
- ▶ Cut through the front to the back of the panel to avoid spalling.
- ▶ You can cut the tile at both ends first to release tension and avoid cracking
- ▶ Use a carbon block to take off any sharp edges after cutting.
- ▶ Always comply with HSE ruling on dust separation when cutting

Do not allow material to flex. The DesignClad on the most visible face





## Tools for the Job

It's important to have the right tools for the job. When installing DesignClad the following equipment is essential.

- ▶ Gloves
- ▶ Bucket x 2
- ▶ Drill
- ▶ Drill paddle
- ▶ Baton
- ▶ Trowel
- ▶ Spacers
- ▶ Sponge
- ▶ Spirit level
- ▶ Wall scraper
- ▶ Tape measure
- ▶ Rubber Mallet
- ▶ Vibrating Pad



## Substrate Preparation

DesignClad can be installed on concrete, block, rendered, plastered, exterior and interior walls.

- ▶ All newly built walls if not being clad on both sides will need to be water proofed on the side with no cladding. There several options with this, two suggestions are to use a tanking paint solution or DPM Paint applied in two coats
- ▶ Covering the elements of the concrete footing will help.
- ▶ If the wall is a retaining wall or a raised planter then weep holes and a gravel in fill need to be used
- ▶ If efflorescence is a problem from the wall construction it is recommend to fit the DesignClad on top of a backer board that is attached to the wall first. This will increase cost but will reduce the efflorescence risk
- ▶ With a new free standing block wall there are several options on backer boards El cement based or Fibre.
- ▶ We recommend the backer boards are fitted with screws and plugs as well as adhesive. Use the same process on existing walls.
- ▶ DesignClad should not be fitted to any type of external wall made from timber, all walls should be made from a solid construction method .
- ▶ Wall should be straight and flat. Any dips or cracks should be filled with a leveling compound or adhesive.
- ▶ Cleaned of any protruding mortar from installation.
- ▶ Cleaned of any raised lumps of concrete from the block production process.
- ▶ Dry and free of dust/grease.
- ▶ The wall can be constructed of hollow concrete blocks but the top course of the wall should be a course of solid blocks.
- ▶ If you plan to clad the top of the wall with DesignClad you need to allow an extra 16mm onto the finished height of the wall to cater for adhesive bed (7mm compressed) and the 9 mm thickness of the DesignClad.





# Wall Installation

The following advice applies whether you intend to have a coping on top of the wall or plan to clad the top of the wall with DesignClad.

- ▶ Calculate the total height of the DesignClad you will be using to clad the wall. This will change depending on the cuts. E.g if installing a piece of DesignClad that is 1000mm high then the total height would be 1000mm. If installing 5 number strips with a depth of 200mm each, then the total height of the DesignClad including the grouting gaps would be 1015mm.
- ▶ If using a coping, the coping should be fixed in position prior to the DesignClad installation. Measure from the bottom of the coping down the wall the total height of the DesignClad adding 3mm to the height to allow for tolerance. Install a level timber baton across the length of the wall at this point. The first piece of DesignClad will sit on this baton.
- ▶ If not using a coping and plan to clad the top of the wall with DesignClad, the top of the cladding should finish 4mm proud of the wall. Measure from the bottom of the coping down the wall the total height of the DesignClad adding 3mm to the total height for tolerance. Then subtract 4mm (this is to allow for the 4mm sitting proud of the wall) and install a timber level baton across the length of the wall at your final measurement height.



# Prime the back of the material

Priming the back of the DesignClad is an extra precaution and will aid adhesion.

- ▶ Any spills should be cleaned up immediately.
- ▶ SBR can be added to the adhesive to increase adhesion. Approx 100ml per bag of adhesive.
- ▶ Clean the release agent off the back with water
- ▶ Use the adhesive to coat the backs of the slabs in a 2mm flat trowel layer.
- ▶ Spread the adhesive on the back of the DesignClad ensuring full coverage.
- ▶ Fix the primed DesignClad to the wall while the Primer is still tacky.
- ▶ Porcelain products have a powder releasing agent that helps the tile come out of the mould in production. This leaves a fine dust particle barrier on the back of the slab / tile which creates a barrier and can stop the adhesive from bonding to the back of the tile. We recommend all porcelain products are either brushed or washed off on the backs before installed.





# Wall Installation

This process is relatively straight forward. Use a 10mm notched trowel to build up the bed.

- ▶ Use a highly flexible adhesive.
- ▶ One 20kg bag of flexible adhesive will provide approximately 4m<sup>2</sup> of coverage.
- ▶ Apply the adhesive to the substrate using a flat trowel with 10mm notches. Do not leave any gaps and ensure the corners and edges are thoroughly covered.
- ▶ Run a spirit level / straight edge over the wall to locate any dips or area where the wall is not flat.
- ▶ Fill any dips or build up any low levels with a bed of adhesive .



# Wall Installation

The key to a smooth installation is accurate measuring and good preparation. Have a range of different thickness spacers on hand to adjust finished levels where required.

- ▶ Beginning at your start point, position your first piece of DesignClad on top of the timber baton and gently press into position.
- ▶ Spread your adhesive bed with a 10mm notched trowel.
- ▶ Ensure it is in the correct position both horizontally and vertically before using a vibrating pad or lightly tapping with a rubber mallet to remove any air pockets in the adhesive bed.
- ▶ Continue the process using 3mm tile spacers between individual pieces of DesignClad.
- ▶ Continually check with a spirit level to ensure the DesignClad is flat and level both vertically and horizontally.

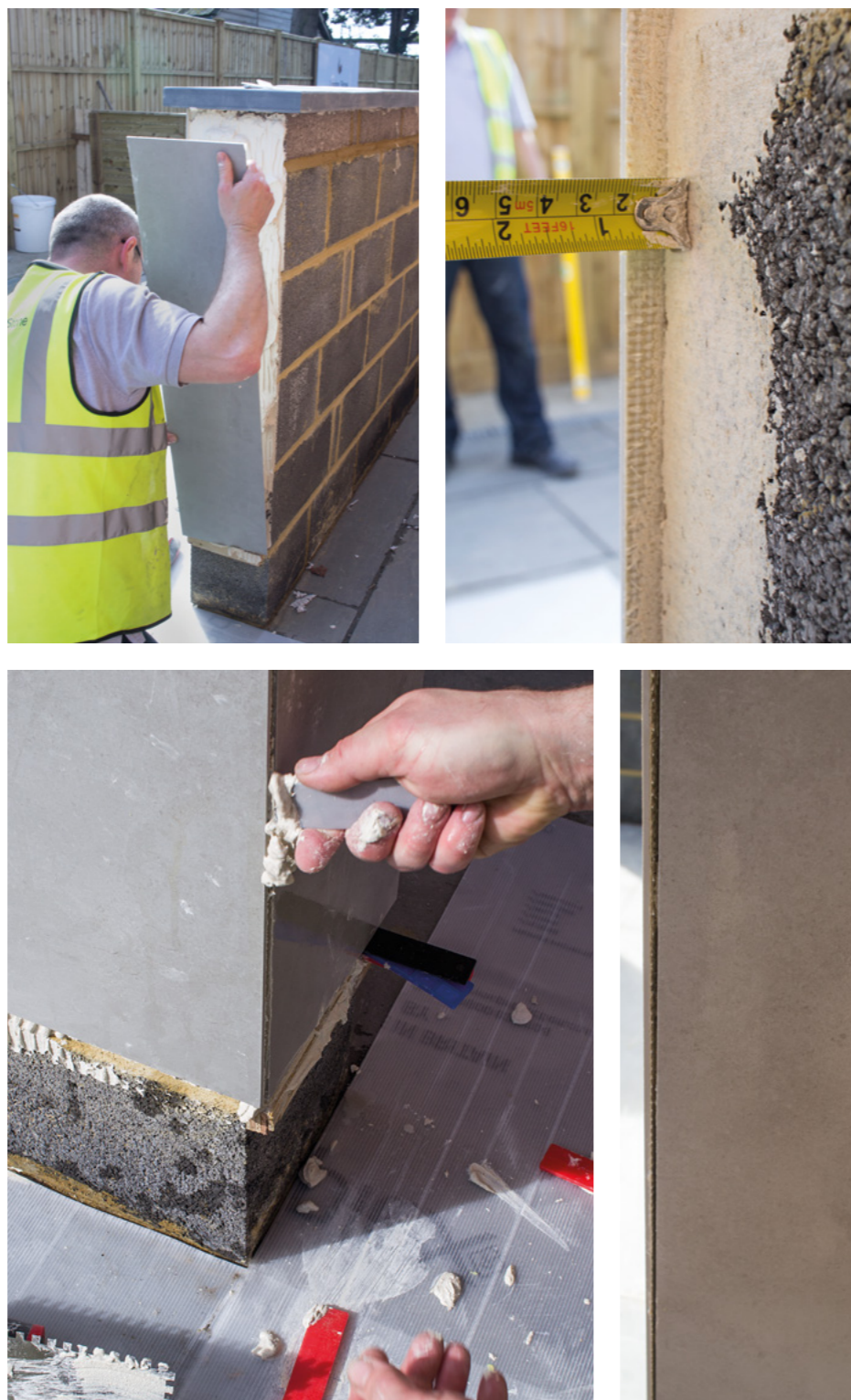




# External Returns

When using DesignClad to clad raised beds, planters and retaining walls you will sometimes need to return the DesignClad around external corners

- ▶ When returning DesignClad around an external corner you will need to over lap two pieces.
- ▶ For aesthetic purposes always ensure that the overlapping piece of DesignClad is used on the most visible face.
- ▶ The DesignClad on the most visible face should overlap the edge of the wall by the thickness of the adhesive bed + the thickness of the DesignClad. If the adhesive bed is 7mm thick this would mean a total overlap of 16mm including the 9mm thickness of the DesignClad.
- ▶ Now fit DesignClad on the return face and gently push in to position to achieve a perfect external corner joint.
- ▶ Use a vibrating pad or a rubber mallet to gently tap the DesignClad and remove any air pockets in the adhesive bed.
- ▶ When installing the DesignClad on the return you should use a 3mm tile spacer where the two returns meet. Do NOT Butt joint.
- ▶ Once installation is complete the 3mm gap should then be grouted.



# Internal Returns

When using DesignClad to clad raised beds, planters and retaining walls you will sometimes need to return the DesignClad around internal corners.

- ▶ When returning DesignClad around an internal corner you will need to over lap two pieces.
- ▶ When installing the DesignClad on the return you should use a 3mm tile spacer where the two returns meet. Do NOT Butt joint.
- ▶ For aesthetics always ensure that the jointing gap is on the side of the return wall with the least visibility.
- ▶ The 3mm gap should then be grouted once installation is complete.



Tile beads can be used to finish the corners, a good quality metal style bead is the best option. This bead size will depend on the adhesive thickness applied to the wall with the notch trowel = IE 10mm plus the tile thickness, Beads are easy to fix, you apply the adhesive to the corners and bond the bead to it you can either mitre the beads where they meet on corners but a lot of good quality beads suppliers have detailed tile corner trim fittings to go with the straight trims.



# Cladding the top of the wall

DesignClad can be used to clad the top of the wall instead of using a coping. Creating a seamless look.

- ▶ For aesthetics the top of the wall should be clad in one piece back to front (not always possible length ways).
- ▶ When cladding the top of the wall with DesignClad the material on the front of the wall should finish 4mm proud of the top of the wall.
- ▶ Using a 10mm adhesive bed lay the top piece of DesignClad on the wall using a 3mm tile spacer on top of the upright Designclad.
- ▶ Gently press the cladding into position. Use a vibrating pad or a rubber mallet to gently tap and remove any air pockets.
- ▶ Once installation is complete the 3mm gap should then be grouted.



# Grouting

One of the biggest benefits of DesignClad is the ability to create large areas of seamless colour and texture.

To help you achieve this we have paired each DesignClad colour with closely matching grout from the Larsen ColourFast 360 range.

Almeria Ash	Limestone
Almeria Beige	Limestone
Sienna Blue	Grey
Sienna Copper	Brown
Valencia Grey	Antracite
Valenci White	Limestone

London Stone recommend a minimum grouting gap of 3mm. Tile spacers should be used to ensure a uniform pointing gap.



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