

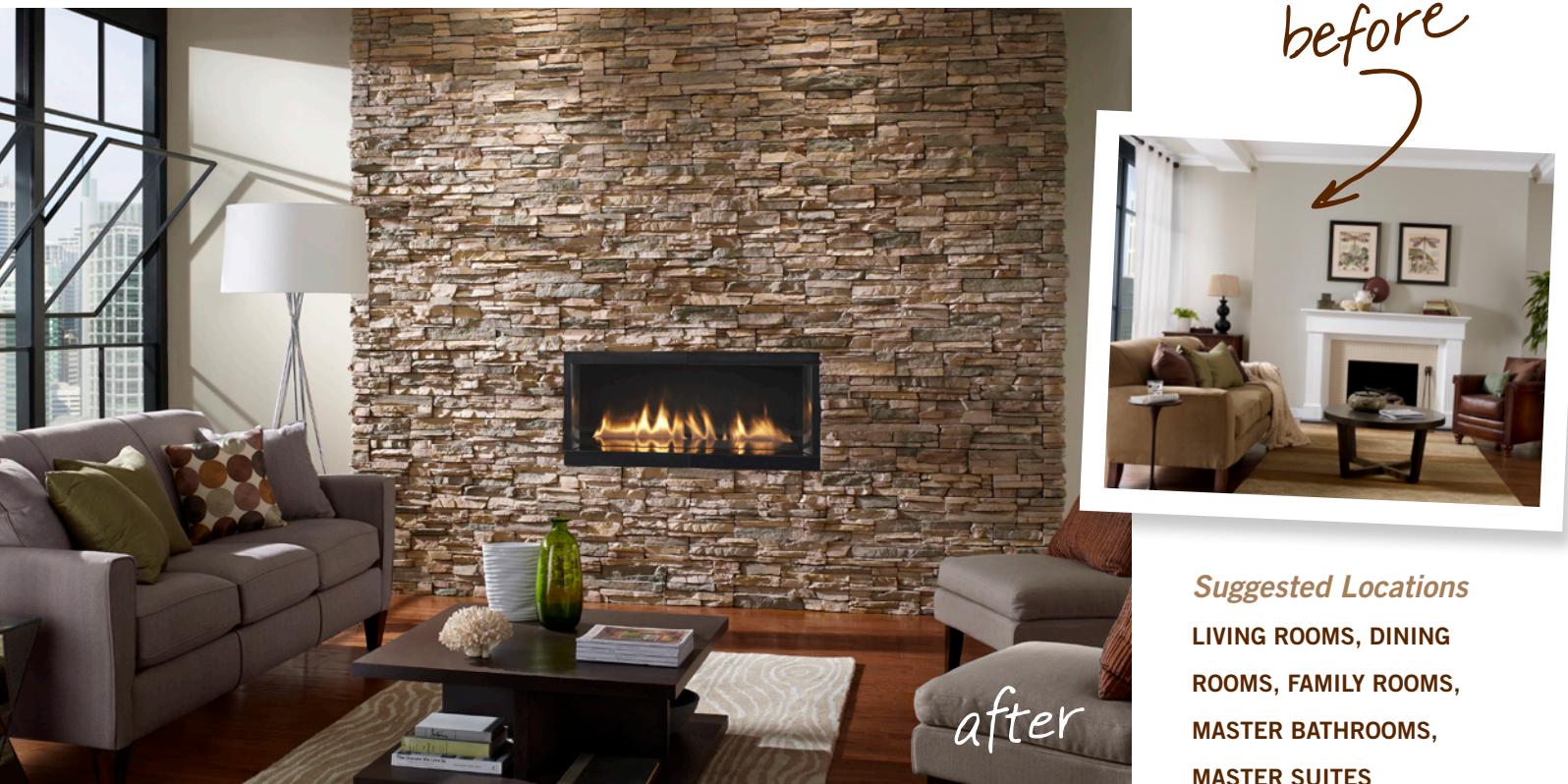
ELDORADO STONE®

GEMSTONE™ *EmberWall*™



THE MOST BELIEVABLE ARCHITECTURAL STONE VENEER IN THE WORLD™

# GETTING STARTED



## *Suggested Locations*

LIVING ROOMS, DINING  
ROOMS, FAMILY ROOMS,  
MASTER BATHROOMS,  
MASTER SUITES

Transformation often changes more than the room. It changes the way we feel about ourselves and invites others to share in our inspiration and love of our home. The Gemstone™ EmberWall™ reinvents traditional fireplace design into a sophisticated and contemporary architectural statement. The natural texture and character of Eldorado Stone balances the modern and

sleek design of the linear fireplace, creating a marriage of drama and warmth into one unique space. 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 EmberWall transformation by following our step-by-step recommended specifications.

## 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.

# **STEP ONE**

## *Pre-Planning*

### **SELECT LOCATION OF WALL AND FIREPLACE**

The EmberWall can be created as an entirely new space or as a remodel of an existing fireplace. Depending on the type of fireplace you currently have (or the new model you intend to specify) it will be necessary to review the manufacturer's recommendations before beginning. Special attention should be made to understand the specifications regarding ventilation, fuel type (natural gas, LP, wood burning), electrical and minimum combustible clearances. Consult with your local building code official before beginning this Gemstone design.

### **SELECT THE ELDORADO STONE PROFILE AND COLOR DESIRED**

Before you start to prep the wall surface, determine the Eldorado Stone profile, color and grout technique. Each individual Eldorado Stone profile creates their 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.

Determining the Eldorado Stone and Brick profile, color and grout technique is important before you begin construction.

## **Recommended Eldorado Stone and Brick for EmberWall**

*The EmberWall showcased in this Idea Book uses Castaway Stacked 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.*



**Castaway  
STACKED STONE**



**Black River  
STACKED STONE**



**Pearl White  
COASTALREEF™**



**Oyster  
CUT COARSE STONE™**



**Riverbed  
TUNDRA BRICK®**



**Bracciano  
ROMABRICK™**

# STEP ONE

## Pre-Planning continued



**DRY-STACK** grout technique with *Castaway Stacked Stone* was specified for the *EmberWall* represented in this Idea Book.



**STANDARD** grout technique with *Riverbed TundraBrick*. A Standard grout technique exposes the edge details of each brick/stone.



**OVERGROUT** technique with *Bracciano RomaBrick* illustrates how rustic and old-world the face appears when Overgrout is applied.

### DIFFERENT GROUT TECHNIQUE

The profiles recommended for the EmberWall — *Stacked Stone*, *CoastalReef*, *Cut Coarse Stone* and *Cliffstone* — are designed to install as a Dry-Stack joint. If you decide to specify a different Eldorado Stone or Eldorado Brick profile, a Standard Joint or an Overgrout Joint technique can be employed.

### 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.

### STANDARD JOINT

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

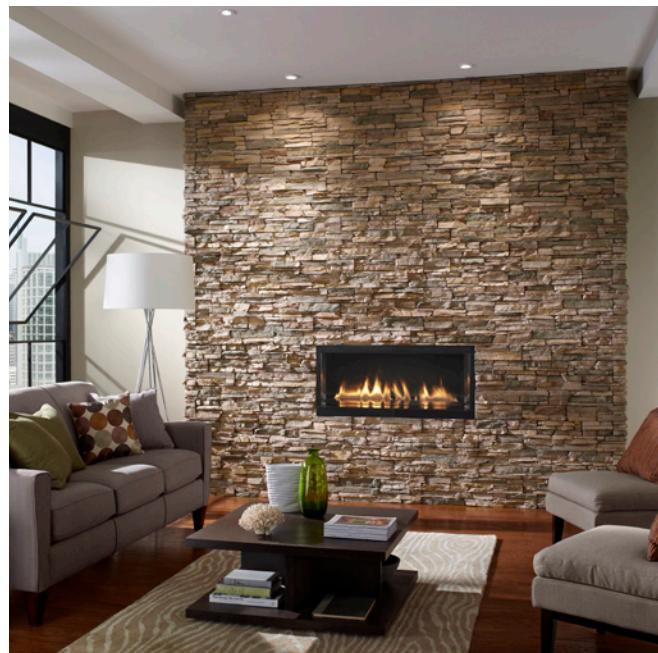
### OVERGROUT JOINT

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

## STEP TWO | Fireplace Installation and Framing



*Before:* The living room featured a traditional design.



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

### DETERMINING FIREPLACE INSTALLATION AND POTENTIAL FRAMING

Eldorado Stone's EmberWall replaced the old firebox with a new, modern rectangular style. This new fireplace is an attainable installation because of existing ventilation, electrical and gas connections. The straight linearity of Eldorado's Stacked Stone profile — and the fireplace's unique shape — complements the design. Additionally, the elevated position of the firebox creates a prominent focal point in the room.

Before commencing prep of the EmberWall 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 the fireplace is installed at the proper height and depth, allowing the Eldorado Stone to transition cleanly around the fireplace opening. If you are keeping your existing fireplace box you may want to consider using Eldorado Stone Trim Stones or Travertine Trim to surround the

fireplace opening. The accessory pieces will allow a clean transition between your stone and the fireplace opening.

One final consideration (as seen above in the "before" photo) the wall projects an additional four inches to define the fireplace. If you have a flat wall consider framing out the fireplace wall with 2' x 4' construction to create 90 degree angled returns for installation of Eldorado Stone corners. When stone is returned (see example above, right) a more authentic stone wall appearance is created.

As always, Eldorado recommends consulting with a skilled contractor and mason to accomplish this design successfully.

## STEP THREE

## Preparing the Surface for Eldorado Stone



Install weather-resistive barrier.



Attach lath to weather-resistive barrier.



Wall ready for mortar scratch coat.



Cover entire lath with mortar.



Score mortar horizontally.

### WEATHER-RESISTIVE PAPER

Install one layer of weather-resistive barrier for interior applications. For exterior applications two layers of weather-resistive 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.

## STEP FOUR | Setting Eldorado Stone



*Apply a layer of mortar to back of veneer. Install corner stones first then straight stones. Consult [eldoradostone.com](http://eldoradostone.com) for detailed installation instructions.*

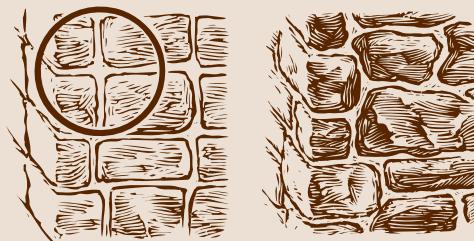
### PREPARING THE SETTING MORTAR

When installing Eldorado Stone begin by moistening the scratch coat and veneer to reduce initial absorption. Apply a 0.5" even layer of mortar to the entire back of the veneer. Install the corner stones first alternating long and short returns. Then gently wiggle the straight stones into place. Do not tap or hit the stones.

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

### 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).

## STEP FIVE | Grouting Eldorado Stone

### GROUT TECHNIQUE AND GROUT COLOR

The EmberWall shown in this Idea Book features a Dry-Stack technique which requires no surface grouting. If you decide to specify a different Eldorado Stone or Eldorado Brick profile, a Standard Joint or an Overgrout Joint technique can be employed.

Grout color is also an important consideration during the grouting process. Grout color can either complement the stone's color hues or create a subtle contrast to the stone. Adding color to the grout or selecting a pre-blended grout with color can accentuate the installation . The final grout color (and grout techniques) can dramatically effect the overall appearance of the finished stone wall. Eldorado recommends that you test multiple possibilities with some loose stones on a board before commencing grouting the actual wall.



Eldorado's EmberWall employs a Dry-Stack grout technique which requires no surface grouting.



Eldorado's Riverbed TundraBrick is shown here with a Standard grout technique.



Eldorado's Orchard Cypress Ridge with an Overgrout technique is installed on this fireplace.

## STEP FIVE | Grouting Eldorado Stone continued

### STANDARD GROUT TECHNIQUE

- Use a grout bag to fill joints with mortar and force grout into any 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 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.
- Don't allow joints to fully harden before tooling. Mortar should be pliable and crumbly, not too wet and not too dry.

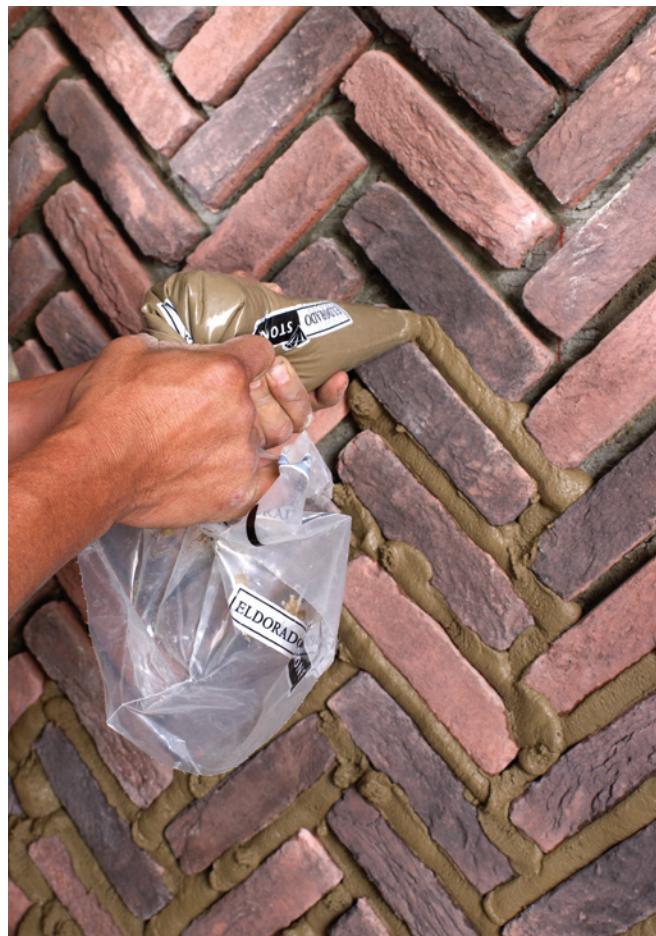
### OVERGROUT TECHNIQUE

- 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.



**Above:** Eldorado Stone recommends adding color to the mortar.

**Below:** Even though Eldorado Brick is being grouted in this picture, the theory is comparable when grouting Eldorado Stone.



**BEHOLD!** | *The Gemstone EmberWall complete*



## The EmberWall from Eldorado Stone.

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

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



THE START OF SOMETHING BEAUTIFUL™

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SAN MARCOS, CA 92078

1.800.925.1491

[WWW.ELDORADOSTONE.COM](http://WWW.ELDORADOSTONE.COM)

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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.