



METHOD OF STATEMENT: WET-FIX MARBLE WALL INSTALLATION

1. Scope

This method covers the installation of natural marble wall cladding using cementitious mortar adhesive (“wet fixing”), including substrate preparation, setting out, fixing, jointing, cleaning, and protection.

2. Materials and Equipment

- Approved marble slabs/tiles, matching approved samples
- Cement, washed sand, potable water, and approved bonding agent
- White cement slurry where specified
- Stainless-steel cramps, pins, or anchors where required by design
- Spacers, spirit level, straight edge, plumb line, rubber mallet
- Tile cutter/wet saw with diamond blade
- Mixing equipment, trowels, notched trowels, buckets, and cleaning materials
- Approved grout, sealant, and stone sealer

3. Pre-Installation Requirements

- Confirm approved shop drawings, material samples, fixing details, and mock-up approval.
- Verify wall substrate is sound, clean, dry, plumb, and free from dust, oil, laitance, loose plaster, and contaminants.
- Ensure all concealed services, openings, backing supports, and waterproofing works are complete and approved.
- Check marble slabs for shade, veining, dimensions, cracks, chips, and surface defects before installation.
- Store marble vertically on padded supports in a dry, protected area.





4. Substrate Preparation

- Remove all loose material and repair uneven or damaged areas.
- Roughen smooth concrete surfaces where necessary to provide proper adhesion.
- Apply approved bonding slurry or bonding agent to the wall immediately before applying mortar, where specified.
- Establish datum lines, control levels, vertical grid lines, and joint locations in accordance with approved drawings.

5. Mortar Preparation

- Prepare cement-sand mortar in the approved mix proportion, typically 1:3 or as specified by the project requirements.
- Use clean water only and mix to a workable, consistent texture.
- Where required, use white cement or approved additives to avoid staining or discoloration of the marble.
- Do not use mortar that has begun to set.

6. Installation Procedure

1. Start installation from the approved datum line, normally from the bottom row upward.
2. Apply a uniform mortar bed to the prepared wall, generally 15–25 mm thick, or as required to achieve line and level.
3. Apply a thin coat of cement slurry or approved stone adhesive to the back of each marble piece before fixing.
4. Press each marble slab firmly into the mortar bed and tap gently with a rubber mallet to obtain full contact.
5. Use spacers to maintain uniform joint widths in accordance with approved drawings.
6. Check every piece for plumb, level, alignment, and surface flatness using a spirit level and straight edge.



7. Use mechanical anchors, cramps, or pins in addition to mortar fixing where required by the approved design, especially for large, heavy, or high-level panels.

8. Remove excess mortar immediately from joints and face surfaces without scratching or staining the marble.

9. Continue installation in the approved sequence, ensuring shade and vein patterns are arranged as approved.

7. Jointing and Finishing

- Allow the mortar to cure sufficiently before grouting.
- Clean joints of loose mortar and dust.
- Fill joints with approved non-staining grout compatible with natural stone.
- Seal movement joints with approved flexible sealant where shown on drawings.
- After final cleaning and complete drying, apply approved stone sealer if specified.

8. Quality Control

- Verify marble type, thickness, finish, colour range, and pattern against approved samples.
- Maintain consistent joint width, alignment, and surface level.
- Ensure no hollow sound, rocking panels, cracked pieces, stains, chipped edges, or mortar contamination are present.
- Check completed surfaces for plumb, flatness, and line within project tolerances.
- Replace defective or damaged pieces before handover.





9. Health and Safety

All workers shall wear safety shoes, gloves, safety glasses, helmets, and dust masks when cutting stone.

Use mechanical lifting equipment or team lifting for heavy marble panels.

Keep cutting areas wet or use dust extraction to control silica dust.

Maintain clear access routes and remove waste materials regularly.

Use approved scaffolding or work platforms for elevated installation.

10. Protection

- Protect completed marble surfaces with non-staining protective sheets or boards.
- Prevent impact, scratching, staining, and water ingress during subsequent works.
- Do not allow other trades to use the installed cladding as a support or working surface.

11. Inspection and Handover

- Submit completed areas for inspection before covering or proceeding to subsequent works.
- Carry out final cleaning using only products approved for natural marble.
- Handover the installation free from stains, cracks, chips, loose panels, and visible defects.

