

How To Receive, Unload, Store, and Handle INDIANA LIMESTONE

Everybody involved with this project wants to do good work, be proud of the job, make the architect and his client happy—and get paid.

Your stone supplier has fabricated the Indiana Limestone per plans and specs. He loaded each shipment carefully, to make certain it reaches you with no damage.

These suggestions will help you handle the stone so that it passes the punch-list easily. Your cooperation will reduce trouble, eliminate delay and unnecessary expense, and produce a job we can all be proud of.

Other ILI publications might be helpful. Ask your stone supplier for Contractors Handbook on Indiana Limestone, The Finishing Touch, and Repairing Indiana Limestone.



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A. On delivery:

1. Check for damage—chipped, cracked or broken stones. Note damage on the freight bill before signing for the load in good order. Open crates, unload pallets, discard shipper's packing.
2. Verify that stone is as specified and ordered—grade, color, finish. Check stone numbers against shipping list. Note any discrepancies.

B. Unloading:

1. DISCARD STONE SUPPLIER'S PADS. HOMASOTE OR OTHER FIBER PADS ARE FOR TRANSPORT ONLY, NOT FOR USE IN STORAGE YARDS. USE OF THIS DUNNAGE MATERIAL MAY CAUSE STAINING.
2. Avoid use of pinch or wrecking bars unless the chips they cause will be covered when installed in the wall.
3. Use clean nylon slings for lifting—**never use rope or wire rope**. Sling width should be no less than 3". Length should be great enough to avoid pinching stone edges.

C. Storage:

1. NEVER store stone directly on dirt or mud. Stone should be placed on padded wood skids or A-frames. Storage yard should be level, and covered with a layer of sand or gravel.
2. Set stone panels on edge on A-frames. If set on skids, lean against walls or other substantial vertical supports. Shaped stones should be stacked so that spacers contact backs, or beds, or other areas which will be covered in the wall.
3. The ideal spacer material is nylon half-ball pads. Place the ball surface against stone faces, the flat surface against stone backs. Pine spacers will do. Make certain that air can circulate.

D. Long-term storage:

1. Protect stone against dust and grime; cover stacked stone with waterproof paper or vinyl sheeting. Make certain air can circulate.
2. Maintain pallets and A-frames. Collapsing supports can chip and crack stones.

E. Setting:

1. Make sure mortar is as specified, and mixed according to requirements.
2. Check for any temperature requirements in specifications, or see Cold Weather Setting procedures published by ILI. Protect mortar from freezing in cold weather, and from moisture evaporation in hot weather. Use within specified time limits.
3. DON'T SET dusty or dirty stone. Wash stone before placing in the wall. Make sure joint surfaces are damp before mortar is placed. Don't gun sealant into damp or dusty joints.
4. If stone must go under grade, or be in contact with concrete work or backup walls, it MUST be dampproofed. See Dampproofing section in Contractor's Handbook published by ILI.

F. Cleaning. USE NO ACIDS.

Clean finished walls with clear water and brushes, or water at pressures no higher than 1200 psi. Don't hold nozzle too close to the surface. Clean interior stone before setting. See Contractor's Handbook on this subject.

G. Protecting finished work:

1. Allow no oil or grease to contact stonework.
2. Do not set salamanders or smoky engines adjacent to stonework.
3. Construct wood shelves or ledges to eliminate damage to projecting stone courses from falling debris and mortar droppings.

**Finally . . .
KEEP THE WALL DRY.**

Cover the tops of unfinished walls, and unglazed windows—anywhere water can enter the walls, contact the concrete backup or floors, and reach the backs or beds of the limestone. If alkaline moisture contacts limestone, stain may result.



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