

# DIY Accent Wall



# What you will need:



**Super-**  
**plasticizer**



**Concrete**  
**Molds**



**CSA**

**Hand**  
**Mixer**



**Heavy**  
**Duty**  
**Bucket**

**Release**  
**Agent**



# Non Aerosol Sprayer



# EcoStain

# Pump Sprayer





**Sealer**

**Foam**  
**Roller**



**Matting**  
**Agent**

# Concrete Miter Saw



# Construction Adhesive



# Casting

**Casting concrete molds can seem like a business which requires a very large initial investment. A large amount of molds are required to mass produce stones as the demold time for most concrete is roughly 24 hours. To fix this issue, I will be making my own concrete mix using CSA, sand and superplasticizer. CSA allows the stones to be demolded within half an hour but it comes with a downside. The curing process of CSA causes a lot of damage to your molds and drastically decreases their life span. I had to dispose of all three molds I used for this project as they were rendered useless by this harsh curing cycle. This method is not recommended but is very effective at producing stones quickly. The second additive is superplasticizer which decreases the amount of water you must add to your concrete, which will drastically increase the strength of our stones.**





1

**Adding water to the bucket first will make mixing the materials quicker and more effective.**



**Then you want to add the sand into your bucket. If you put the CSA in the water first, it will cure way too quickly and destroy your bucket.**





**Then you can add  
superplasticizer  
and CSA to your  
heavy duty bucket**

**Materials needed for one  
mold:**

**CSA- 6 lb.**

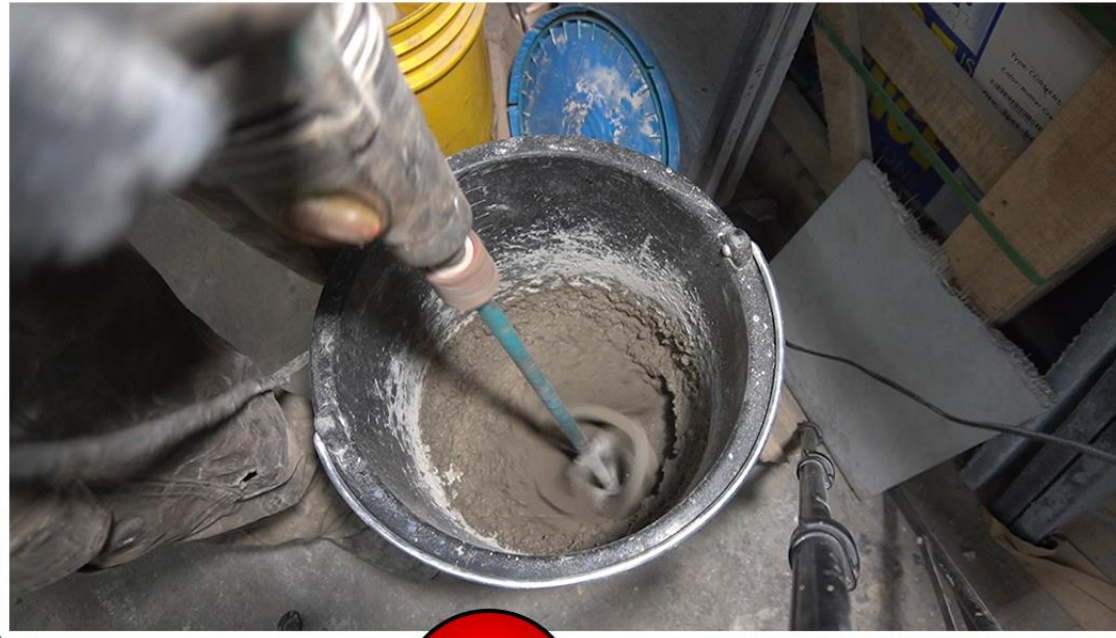
**Sand- 18 lb.**

**Superplasticizer- 0.06 lb.**

**Water- 23.7 oz.**



**Mix the concrete with a hand mixer. We recommend the Collomix mixer but have economy mixers available too**



**Scrape the sides and bottom of your bucket to make sure the materials are all mixed together, and then mix it with the hand mixer again**



**3**



4

**You MUST spray a release agent on your mold before casting. The release agent makes sure that the concrete does not get stuck to your mold**





5

**Pour your  
concrete into the  
mold and spread  
it out evenly**

**Working quickly  
is necessary  
when using the  
CSA method**



**Using a vibration table greatly reduces the amount of bubbles you get in your stones surface**




**6**

**While vibrating you can screed the excess concrete**



7



**After about 30 minutes you can demold the stones and put them aside to dry**

# Staining

**EcoStain is a waterbased stain which is extremely user friendly. If you don't like the way it originally looks you can go over it with a wet sponge to manipulate the stain. To get the color you want from the color chart, you dilute it with 3 parts water to 1 part stain but can always change the dilution rate to achieve a lighter or darker color.**





**I diluted my stain at a 5:1 ratio of water to stain**

**8**



**Be sure to shake the bottle before diluting!**



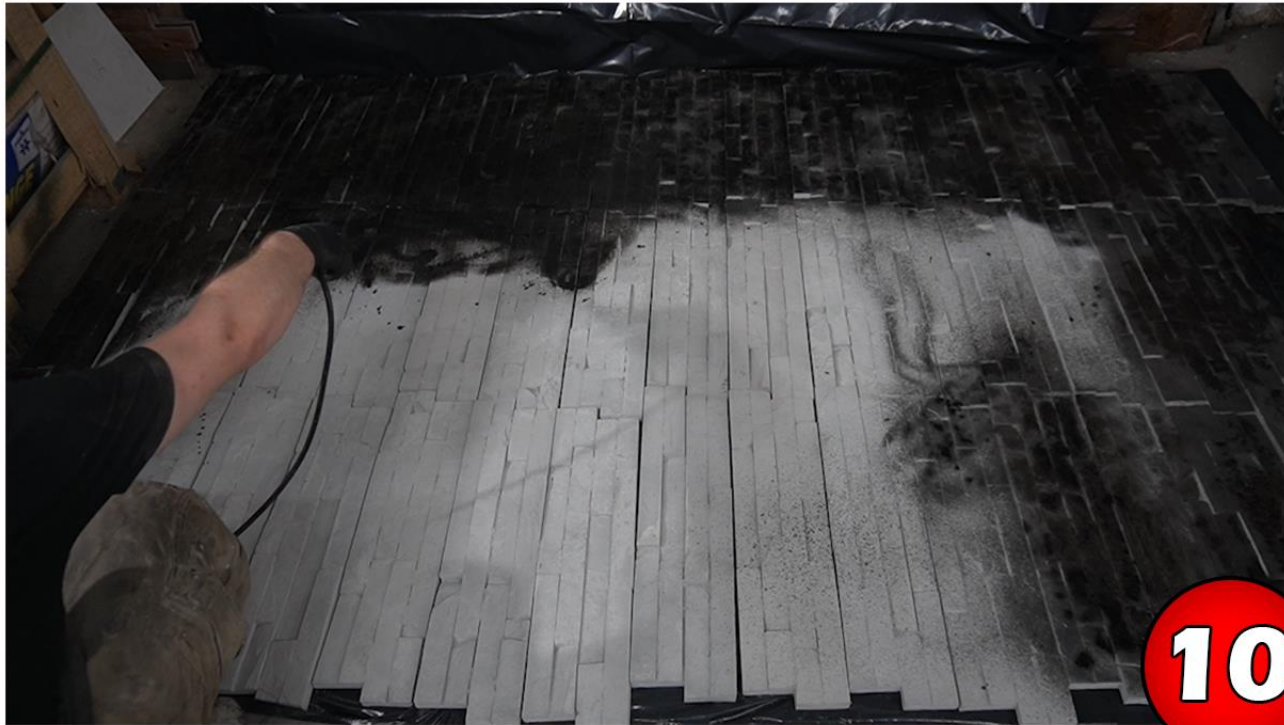


**Pour the stain  
into a pump  
sprayer**

**9**



**Pump sprayers are  
convenient because  
they shoot a  
continuous stream of  
stain so you can get the  
job done quicker**



**Spray the stain  
evenly along  
all your stones**

**10**



**Even with a 5:1  
dilution ratio the  
color "domino" is  
still extremely dark**



**I did not like the way it looked so I washed it with a wet sponge and got a much nicer appearance**

**11**

**The finished product will look like the wet stain, not how it looks when its dry. This is because we have to seal the stones after staining**





# Sealing

**You must seal the stones or else the stain will rub off. It is important to make sure your concrete is entirely dry before sealing or else the stones will start developing discoloration. Wait about 5-7 days after casting for stones of this size**



**I added 2 scoops of matting additive to one gallon of sealer to get a matte finish**

**12**

**Mix thoroughly for two minutes**



# Add the sealer to a pump sprayer



13

## PRO TIP

Once you have finished using the sealer, you **MUST** clean the sprayer by filling it with acetone and spraying it back out





**Spray your  
stones with the  
sealer**

**14**

**Avoid making the  
sealer pool up in  
the low points of  
the stones**



**Use a foam roller to  
“backroll” the  
sealer once it has  
been sprayed on**



**15**

**This is done to make  
sure you didn't miss  
any spots on your  
stones and to get a  
more even coverage**







# Installing

**There are two methods of installing these stones. The first is screwing hardie backer boards to your homes beams to ensure structural stability. Then you use a thin-set mortar mix to attach the stones to the hardie backer board. To avoid the mess of mixing mortar in the house I will be using the second method and use construction adhesive.**

**The first couple of rows require more adhesive than the rest because of the weight they need to support.**

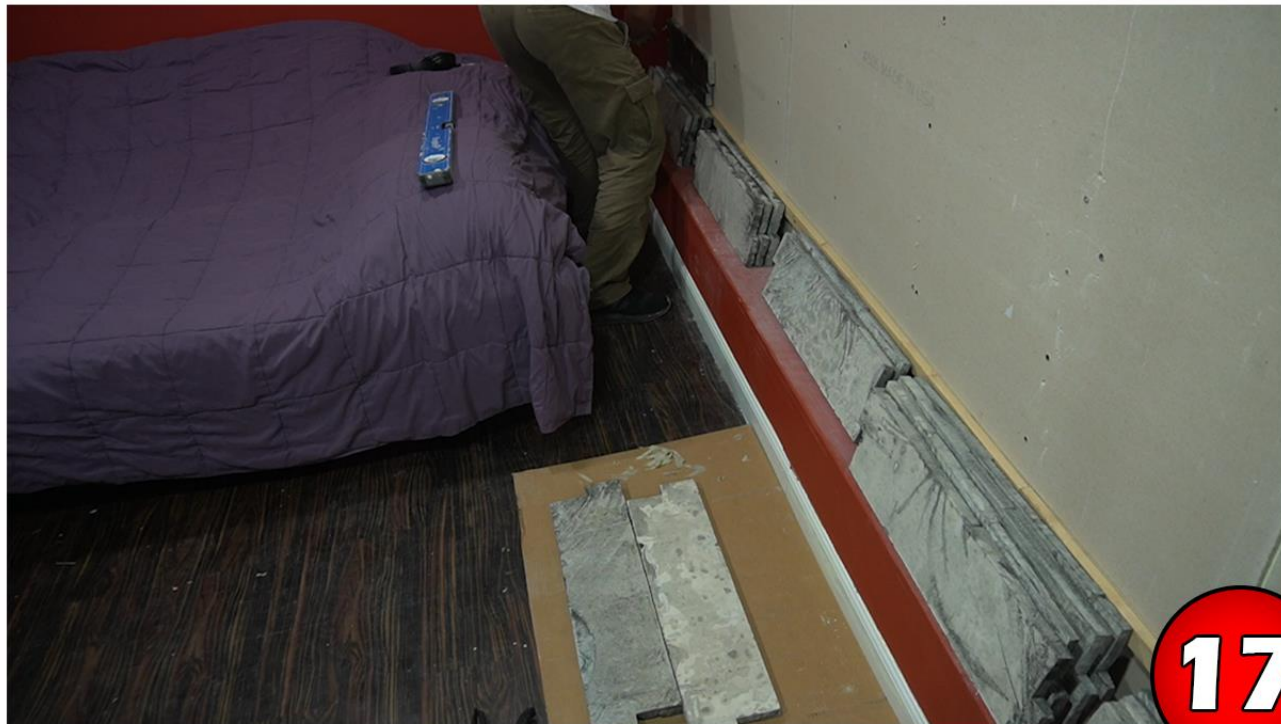


**16**



**Six dollops per stone should be plenty**

**Attach the stones  
to your wall  
starting from a  
bottom corner**



**17**

**If the stone does  
not feel properly  
secured, add  
more adhesive**

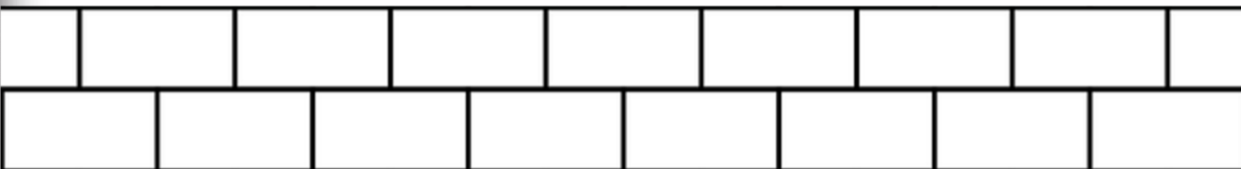
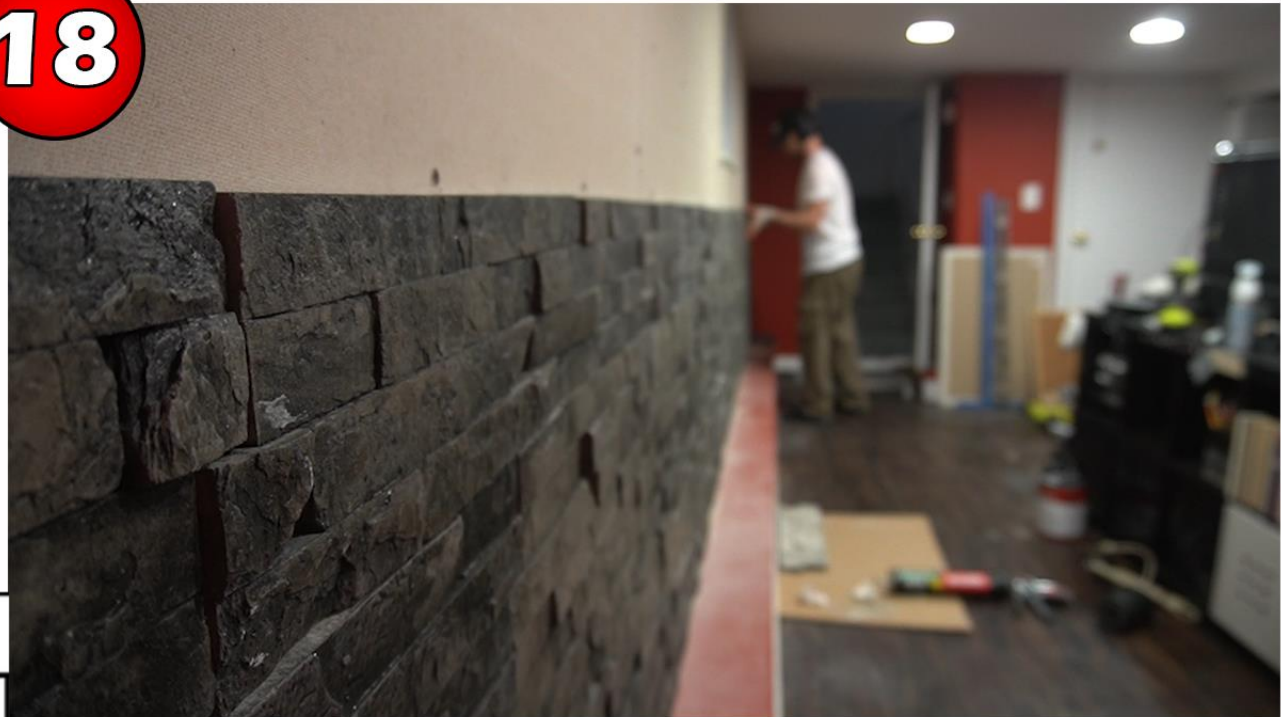




**I placed the stones halfway up the wall to make sure the bottom stones don't have too much weight to support while the adhesive is drying**

**18**

**Be sure to stagger the stones with each layer like you would with bricks so you won't see a seam line in your wall**



**Outlet holes and corners will need to be cut**



**19**

**Be sure to slightly pull the outlet out of your wall before adhering your stone**



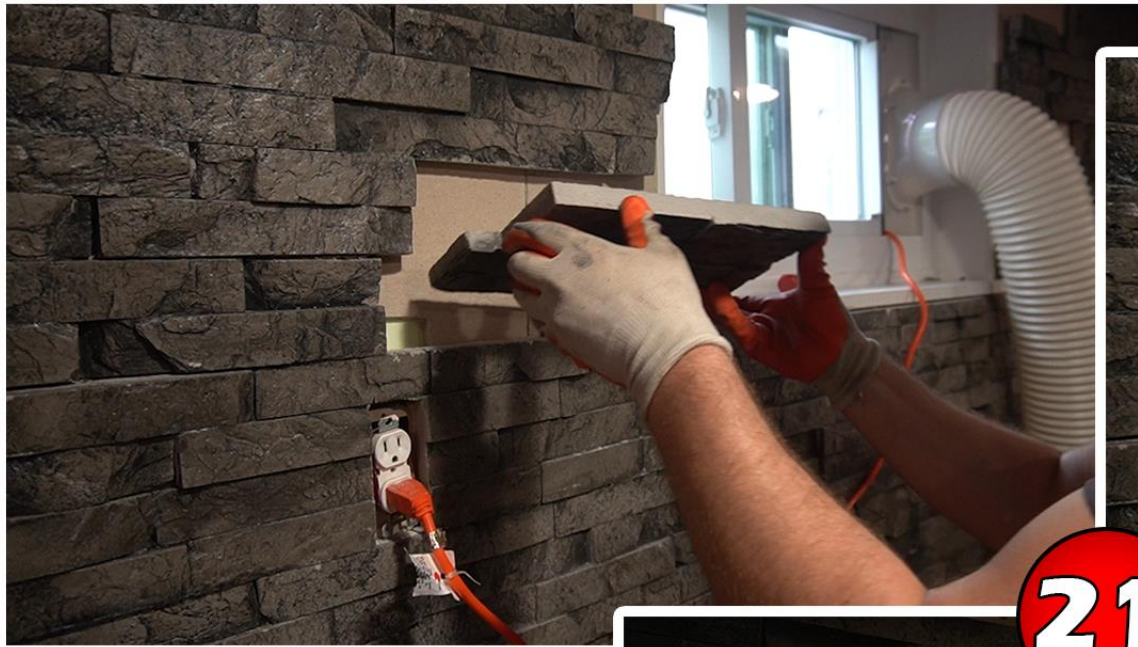
**Remember to use the correct equipment for the job. Use a diamond blade to cut the stones**



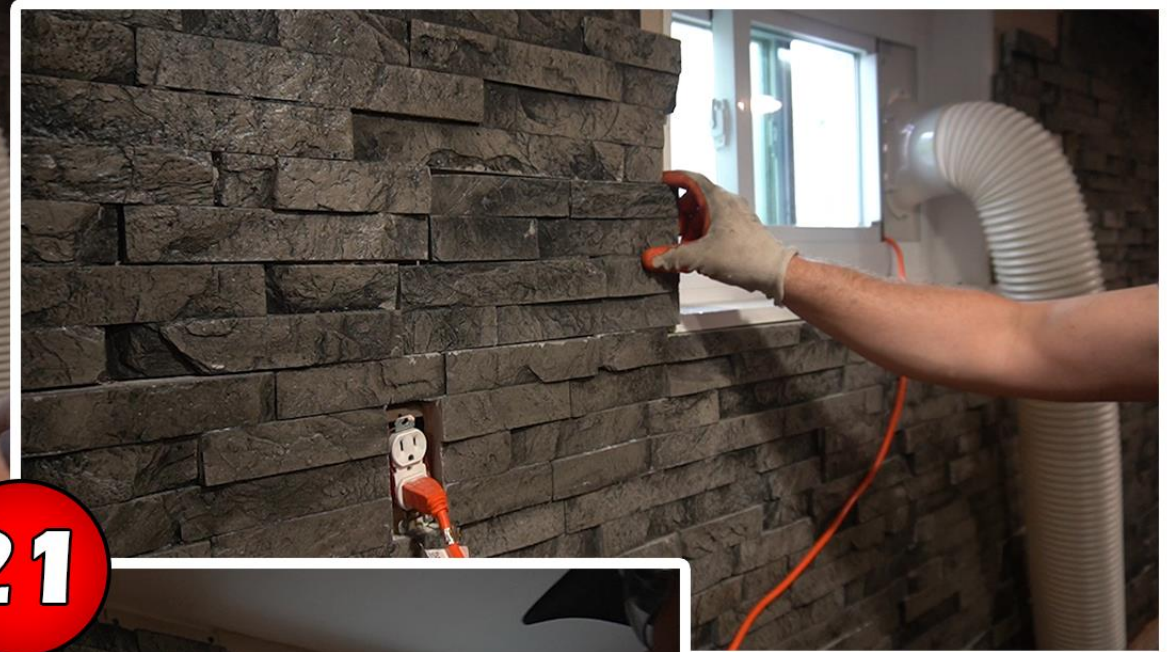
**20**

**If your saw has a water pump, turn it off. Construction adhesive is less effective on wet surfaces**





**21**



**I like to  
leave all  
the cutting  
for last**



**Finish up your  
project and wipe  
everything down  
with a wet cloth  
to remove the  
dust**

# All done!





**To watch the full video, click here**

