

The Case for DCS



DCS Helps Quarry Ridge Stone Hit a Home Run with Its Tru-Fit Panelized MSV System

Quarry Ridge Stone in Byron Center, MI has come a long way from the days when “we were using mom’s oven to bake off stones and working out of a garage,” according to company President JD Fox.

Today, Quarry Ridge occupies an 80,000-square-foot manufacturing facility and has its own proprietary manufacturing processes and its own custom color palettes. The new Tru-Fit manufactured stone veneer panel system complements Quarry Ridge’s traditional lines of manufactured stone veneer—taking the company to a whole new place.

DCS Was There from the Very Start

Quarry Ridge was born after Fox and his father—the owner of Fox Building Supply—noticed more and

more stone veneer on the blueprints coming through their yards. “Dad and I had always been itching to get into manufacturing. So, we started fooling around, trying to figure out how to make our own line of manufactured stone veneer. We started small and learned as we went.”



JD Fox

Fox discovered DCS early on. “When we were just getting started, I looked around for a supplier, and they had the color that we needed. Over the years, we’ve worked more and more closely with the folks at DCS as our business has grown. I think they like that I’m always experimenting. DCS has been fantastic. They’ve helped us every step of the way. Color is critical in manufactured stone veneer, and DCS has the expertise and experience. If we send them a piece of stone that we want to match the color on, they get it every time,” he said.

“They’ve worked with us to develop a special color palette for our new panelized Tru-Fit MSV system. Working with them is part of what gave us the confidence to go ahead with that system,” Fox added.



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The Case for DCS Quarry Ridge Stone

Tru-Fit System Brings True Innovation to Panelized MSV

MSV is one of the hottest building products on the market today, finding its way into both residential and commercial projects of all sorts. It offers the appearance and feel of natural stone, with easier installation and reduced costs. MSV posted a 96 percent cost/value return in *Remodeling* magazine's 2020 *Cost vs. Value Report*—putting it at the very top of the list of 22 remodeling products/projects covered by the highly regarded benchmarking study. Builders and owners alike recognize the upscale vibe and value it can bring to a project.

Panelized MSV—with fewer individual pieces to install—makes getting the product on the wall even easier and more cost-effective. According to Fox, Quarry Ridge's Tru-Fit system was born because he saw the benefits of panels, but believed many

"The combination of the (DCS) custom base and Dynamicast colors are helping Tru-Fit stand out in the marketplace."

existing systems left seams detectable and reduced the realism of the installed product.

The Tru-Fit system was designed specifically for easy installation with undetectable seams between panels.

Lightweight concrete, consisting of white

pumice, sand, and cement, is used to cast the panels. The main panels are 8-by-28 inches, and corner pieces are 20-by-8 inches. Fox credits several things with helping give Tru-Fit the look of real stone. The panels feature bevel-back edges with deep grooves, and specially designed molds help ensure that the panels are flat—both of which help make seams vanish.

Color Is Key to Keeping It Real

Color is also a big part of making the product look real, Fox says. DCS dry pigment is used in the concrete



mix so that the base color runs through the panel. Before casting, DCS Dynamicast Color Hardener gets brushed into the molds by hand for each stone (between 7 and 12) in the panel. The Dynamicast Color Hardener is applied both dry and in a slurry, made by mixing it with water. So, every stone is hand-colored. "Their colors are truly beautiful—especially deep, rich greys and deep blues," Fox said.

"The color of each stone in a panel is different, and no two panels are the same in terms of color. That's the kind of natural-looking color variation that makes our product look so real. The combination of the custom base and Dynamicast colors are helping Tru-Fit stand out in the marketplace."

Tru-Fit panels are installed with troweled-on mortar or mastic, typically over a concrete backer board. The product goes on the wall easily, and do-it-yourselfers can make an excellent job of it. That same ease of installation means labor savings and fewer callbacks when contractors use Tru-Fit in residential or commercial applications.

"The elegance and ease of installation of the system—combined with the rich color palette and techniques DCS helped us develop—make Tru-Fit something special," Fox said. "We think we have a real winner on our hands."