



## **RETROFITTING HARD SURFACE BUILDINGS**

1st quarter 2017

The **TABS WALL SYSTEM** has been used extensively in remodels and renovations of existing buildings with hard surfaces, i.e. brick, block and concrete. In most cases, the desire has been to create a new aesthetic appearance while maintaining the existing structure. While a significant part of **TABS'** market is in new construction over hard surfaces such as precast parking garages, infrastructure and block buildings, there has been a growing use in renovations.

There are some important considerations when the **TABS Wall System** is used in retrofits over hard surfaces starting with the fastener requirements. Unlike typical stick frame installations over wood or steel studs with various sheathings, attaching to hard surfaces require masonry screw anchors as supplied by **TABS**.

Older existing buildings with brick or block, in particular, should be evaluated for fastener pull strength. It may be necessary to conduct pull strength analysis to insure that positive attachments can be attained. (see Image 1)

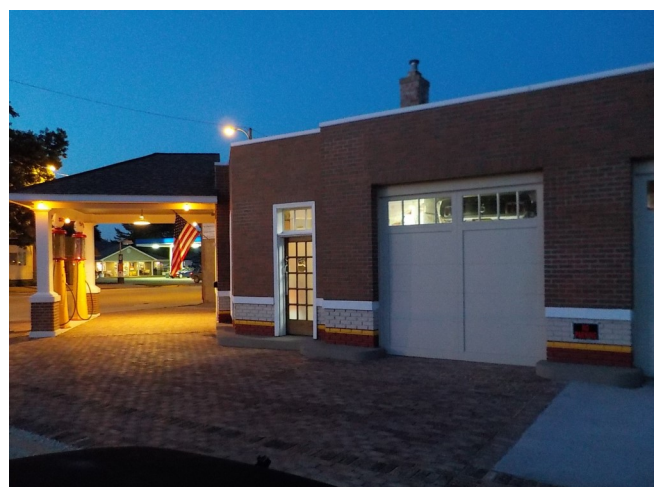
Surfaces such as fluted block, and other striated surfaces, will require parging (see Image 2) before receiving the TABS thin veneer installation. A true flat, plumb surface is required to produce a visually appealing finished installation. Parged surfaces can be ground/sanded to create flat surface conditions.

Assuming general water-tightness of an existing hard surface, the TABS Wall System can be installed without an weather resistive barrier (WRB). In lieu, of an WRB, TABS recommends two layers of 15# felt or a single layer of 30# felt behind the system to "cushion" the installation. The felt will offset minor surface imperfections, reduce sound rattling under wind loads (as metal touches hard surface) and provide additional protection against water infiltration.

In all installations, existing control joint locations should serve as the pattern to be followed in the new thin veneer renovation provided that they are consistent with TABS recommendations for vertical spacing of 16-20' O.C. Horizontal control joints are required every other floor line or every 20'. Control joints are also required at all inside corners and within 2-4' of outside corners.

**Before**

**After**







# Keeping TABS On the Thin Veneer Industry

TABS WALL SYSTEMS, LLC

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Before



After



Before



After

