

SITE GUIDE

MORTAR

SITE GUIDE No 3: READY TO USE MORTARS

INTRODUCTION

Tarmac ready-to-use mortars are produced to the highest standards and are factory mixed, requiring no further machine mixing. The normal working time is between 36/72 hours. This working time can be extended to accommodate weekend working schedules.

RECOMMENDATIONS

FOLLOW THESE SIMPLE GUIDELINES TO ACHIEVE THE BEST RESULTS

- Store mortar in the 0.3m³ tubs provided. Keep tubs free from old material and make available for the next delivery
- Plastic liners are supplied with each delivery. They should be placed in each tub and folded over to keep out rain and prevent drying
- Bricks, blocks should be kept dry before the mortar is used
- When ordering, please notify Tarmac if high density blocks or bricks are being used
- If dense units are in use, a previous day delivery is likely to be needed to allow the mortar to stiffen slightly
- No admixture or other materials should be added to ready-to-use mortars, other than small amounts of water to offset loss in hot or windy conditions
- Up to 5 litres of water may be added per 0.3m³ of mortar
- Do not re-temper the mortar after the end of the specified minimum working time – normally 36 hours
- New masonry should be covered with waterproof sheeting leaving an insulating air gap
- In difficult conditions at least the top course of brickwork should be covered, e.g. with scaffold planks
- Rendering and plastering should be protected from premature drying

WINTER WORKING

- Tarmac mortars are well suited to winter use, but should never be used in a frozen state
- Mortar in tubs should be protected in frosty conditions and never used in a frozen state
- Where a frozen crust forms on the top of ready-to-use mortar in a site tub, it is unlikely that all the mortar will be adversely affected
- If a frozen crust forms, mortar remaining workable within the tub may safely be used within the specified working time
- The code of practice recommends against working at temperatures below +1°C (+3°C if temperature is falling)

ORDERING

When re-ordering please allow 24 hours for delivery

The tables below give Tarmac mortar recommendations and advice on how to avoid problems

Action Required

Place liner in empty tub prior to receiving mortar***

Reason

Preserve quality of mortar and confirm day of delivery

Problems Avoided

Stiffening of mortar

Contamination

Disputes

Action Required

Cover mortar before use and overnight (mortar in tubs with polythene)

Keep bricks/blocks* covered

Reason

Surface may dry out or fines could be washed out

Problems Avoided

Stiffening of mortar

Colour variation

Prevent formation of lime bloom

For more details contact:
03701 116 116 mortar@tarmacbp.co.uk

The information given in this technical data sheet is based on our current knowledge and is intended to provide general notes on our products and their uses. Tarmac endeavour to ensure that the information given is accurate, but accept no liability for its use or its suitability for particular application because of the product being used by the third party without our supervision. Any existing intellectual property right must be observed.

Action Required
Do not work in freezing conditions**
Reason
Water expands on freezing
Problems Avoided
Damage to mortar by frost attack

Action Required
Do not use frozen bricks/blocks
Reason
Units may be coated in ice
Problems Avoided
Poor Bond

Action Required
Do not use calcium chloride 'anti-freeze'
Reason
No benefit in mortar
Problems Avoided
Dampness
Efflorescence
Corrosion of wall ties

Action Required
Cover masonry****
Reason
Keep out water/frost
Problems Avoided
Lime bloom
Efflorescence
Damage to mortar by frost attack

****Use waterproof sheet leaving air gap

Action Required
Tool joints consistently
Reason
Good appearance
Problems Avoided
Colour variation

*Units may be wetted slightly in hot weather if suction high.

**Tarmac ready-to-use mortar are very resistant to frost attack, but normal precautions should be taken (see site guide No. 6).

***Quality/performance complaints not accepted if liners not used.