

SITE GUIDE

MORTAR

SITE GUIDE No 7: SUMMER WORKING

RECOMMENDATIONS FOR LSM (LIME: SAND), READY-TO-USE (RTU) AND DRY SILO MORTARS (DSM)

RECOMMENDATIONS

Follow these simple guidelines to achieve best results.

- Use lime based mortars for better workability and water retention.
- Store LSM on firm base and cover – preferably with damp hessian to avoid drying out and lump formation, and waterproof sheeting to avoid rain damage.
- Keep RTU mortars covered in tubs – use extra protection in hot and/or windy weather, e.g. boarding to provide shade.
- High absorption bricks may absorb too much water from the mortar before it has set, thereby reducing its adhesion, rain resistance and strength – It is recommended in BS 8000-3:2001 “Code of practice for masonry” that the surfaces of the absorbent masonry units are wetted sufficiently enough to reduce suction.
- Wetting the surface in warm weather will help increase the time that the mortar remains workable for ease of pointing. However, be careful not to over wet them as they will become saturated and ‘float’ on the mortar.
- Do not wet low absorption bricks. Their low suction rate when wet causes them to ‘float’ on the mortar and may cause the wall to become unstable.
- Over-wetting of calcium silicate bricks should be avoided to minimize the risk of brickwork shrinking as it dries.
- It may be necessary to stop work in exceptionally hot conditions.
- Prevent rapid drying in extreme conditions e.g. by shading from very hot sun.
- In hot weather you should be prepared to add small amounts of water to offset any loss of consistence through evaporation.

NOTES

- Protection of completed masonry from rain is just as important in summer as in winter in order to prevent staining – keep out water until permanent protection is provided e.g. by roof or coping.
- Provision of an air gap between sheeting and masonry allows drying out and prevents sweating.
- Up to 5 litres of water may be added per 0.3m³ tub of mortar without affecting the final properties of the mortar within the specified working time.
- High absorbency masonry units, in conjunction with good site practice consider the use of Hydrocure and Hydrocure+ dry silo mortars (Only available in dry silo mortars see datasheet 100/03).

REFERENCES

- BS 8000-3:2001 – Workmanship of building sites; Code of practice for masonry.

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