We celebrate early techniques for forming and baking natural clay in our expanded range of Sandstocks. Each brick has individual character and varied shapes, resulting from nature's artistry. We've sourced new raw materials, carefully selected sands and perfected firing techniques to provide our Natural and Opaque ranges, each offering a contemporary update to an ancient method of brick making.
Recommendations

These recommendations are to provide a best practice guide for the Sculptured Sands bricks during the construction and cleaning processes, which, when followed will reduce common problems.

Brick Construction

1. Storage
   Ensure bricks are stored appropriately (either on pallets or on plastic sheeting), to prevent bricks absorbing ground salts and excessive water, which causes issues when laid.
   Bricks should always be protected from rain with plastic or similar waterproof material.

2. Blending
   Bricks are to be blended from three packs, in a vertical manner.
   There are four usable faces – two headers and two stretchers.
   To achieve the full blended look, a relatively even mix of all four sides is to be used.
   Bricks can be laid with either the frog up or down. Frog up will make the bricks “smile”, frog down will make the bricks “frown”.

   To achieve the blended look for the Sculptured Sands Opaque series, it is recommended to use approximately 80% of the light coloured face and approximately 20% of the dark coloured face.
3. Bricklaying
Care should be taken to help keep the wall free of mortar dags and smears. During the laying process, these should be cut off with a trowel. The cleaner the bricklayer leaves the wall, the easier the cleaning task will be.
- Mortar dags and smears on the work face must be removed by dry brushing within 1-2 days.
- Do not sponge the joints of the brickwork, otherwise it may create permanent stains.

4. Cleaning Procedure
Cleaning as you go is the best method for ensuring good brickwork. Mortar dag and smears are best cleaned when fresh (within 1-2 days).

Opaque series:
- To maintain the white finish on the Opaque series, no cleaning other than brushing off excess mortar is required and it is recommended that no acid and no high pressure water are applied.

Natural Series:
- Wet wall from bottom to top with hose
- Combine 1 part hydrochloric acid to 20 parts water
- Apply the acid solution with a low pressure spray (less than 100psi) and scrub lightly with a bristle brush. Never use a wire brush as this could ruin the surface of the brickwork. Ensure to work on a small area at a time. Work always from the top side to the bottom of the wall. Allow 3 to 6 minutes for the acid to react.
  - Thoroughly wash the wall down with a hose
  - Do this uniformly to avoid marks / stains when the wall is dry
  - Mix 15 grams of Sodium Bicarbonate (Bicarbonate Soda/ Baking Soda) per litre of water and apply the solution with a brush or a low pressure spray (less than 100psi) to neutralise the wall. Do not wash off.

5. Copings, Sills & Weathering
Storm water should be shed so as to clear the masonry immediately below. Copings and sills should project at least 10mm beyond the wall face at the underside of the sill or coping. Where downpipes have not been installed, water from the guttering should be diverted away from the brickwork.

6. Mortar Joint
A mortar joint of 8-12mm is recommended. This variance will compensate for the irregular edges of the bricks.
- A flushed joint will aid in filling in any spaces created from the irregular brick edges. The mortar can also be lightly smeared over the edges of the brick to enhance the rustic look.

7. Cutting
Clean water is to be used for all brick cutting. If the water is recycled, it will be absorbed into the brick and cause it to discolor.

Brick Cleaning

1. Safety Precautions
The use of the correct cleaning methods will prevent further problems arising. The manufacturer's instructions and safety precautions should always be followed when using acids and other proprietary cleaning chemicals.
The product images shown in this brochure give a general indication of product colour for your preliminary selection. Austral Masonry recommends all customers see actual product samples at a selection centre prior to making final selections. 1. Stock colours. Colours other than stock colours are made to order. Contact your nearest Austral Masonry office for your area’s stock colours. A surcharge applies to orders less than the set minimum quantity. 2. Colour and texture variation. The supply of raw materials can vary over time. In addition, variation can occur between product types and production batches. 3. We reserve the right to change the details in this publication without notice. 4. For a full set of Terms & Conditions of Sale please contact your nearest Austral Masonry sales office. 5. Important Notice. Please consult with your local council for design regulations prior to the construction of your wall. Councils in general require those walls over 0.5m in height and/or where there is loading such as a car or house near the wall be designed and certified by a suitably qualified engineer. 6. Max wall heights disclaimer. The gravity wall heights are maximum heights calculated in accordance with CMAA MA-53 Appendix D guidelines and a qualified engineer should confirm the suitability of the product for each application. As such, due consideration must be given to but not limited to: Cohesion. Dry backfill, no ingress of any water into the soil behind the retaining wall. All retaining walls are designed for zero surcharge unless noted otherwise. These walls are intended for structure Classification A walls only as defined in AS4678 Earth Retaining Structures as being where failure would result in minimal damage and/or loss of access.

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