

Bowral Bricks

Guidelines for laying dry-pressed bricks

These guidelines are to provide a best practice guide to laying Bowral dry-pressed bricks, which, when followed will reduce common problems.

Blend the bricks between a minimum of 6 packs.

Blend the bricks by stripping the pack vertically rather than horizontally, as well as between a minimum of 6 packs to create an even mottle.

Do not soak bricks prior to laying.

The brick pack can be lightly sprayed and allowed to dry initially to reduce the suction of the brick but saturating the brick will lead to staining problems.

Adjust the mortar consistency to match the brick.

The mortar for dry pressed bricks needs to be softer than for extruded bricks as the brick will absorb some of the moisture from the mortar quite quickly and reduce the time available for adjustment.

Do not make the mix harder than necessary.

If M3 mortar is required do not make M4 mortar. It is harder to clean later.

Do not put clay into the mortar.

This does not come off the walls and does not dissolve in hydrochloric acid. It makes cleaning very difficult.

Fill the perp joints.

It makes a stronger wall and stops water penetration.



Dry brush the wall at breaks during the day and before completing work at the end of the day.

Reducing the excess mortar from the brick wall before it goes hard reduces the amount and duration of both acid and cleaning that needs to be done later.

Cover open packs of bricks and the top of the wall.

If it is going to rain, cover the packs of bricks as well as brickwork with a plastic tarpaulin or the damp proof course. It stops the bricks and wall getting saturated.

Do not sponge the walls.

Using a sponge may smear mortar across the face of the brick which can react with the acid during the acid cleaning process and lead to problems.

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