

SAN SELMO BRICKS

construction and cleaning recommendations

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

Brick construction

Good workmanship and correct storage of bricks during construction will ensure that a number of potential stains are avoided.

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.

Blending

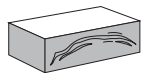
Bricks are to be blended from three packs, in a vertical manner.

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”.

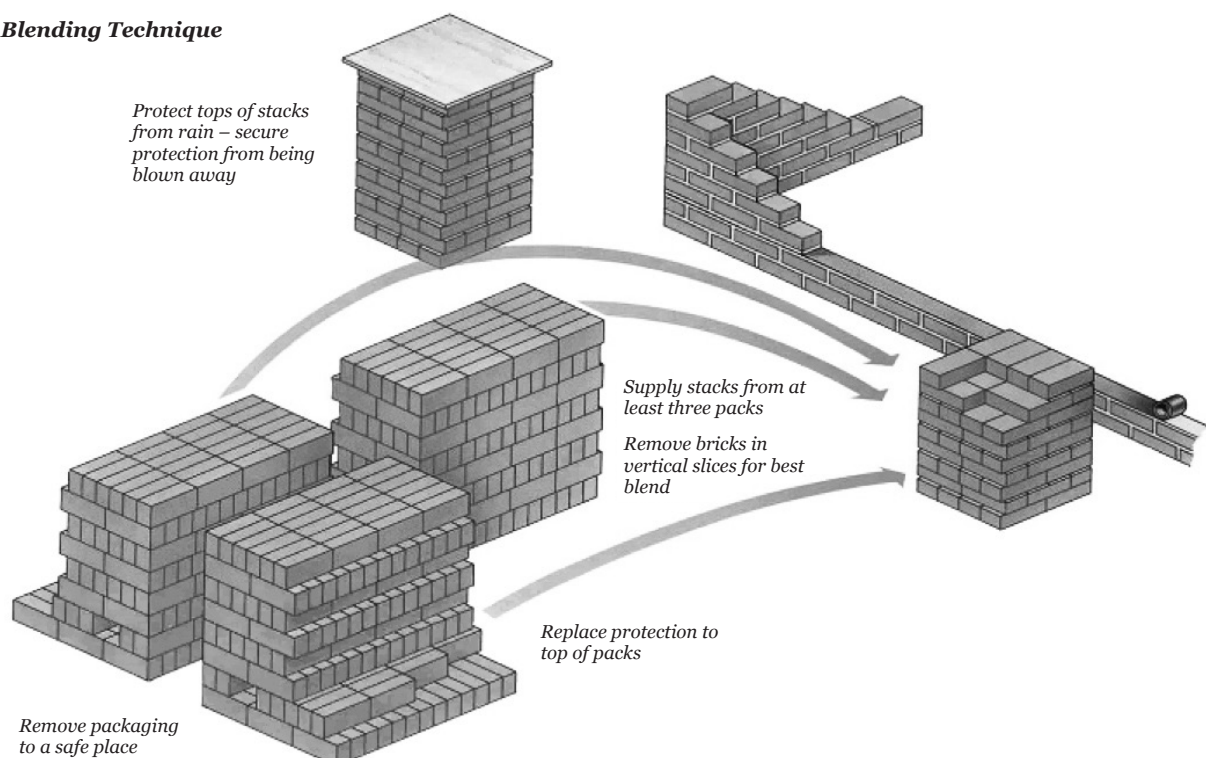


Frog UP – Smiling



Frog DOWN – Frowning

Correct Blending Technique



Bricklaying

Care should be taken to help keep the wall free of mortar dags and smears. During laying 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**

Moisture

Cover the brickwork at the end of each day, especially when rain is expected. Additionally, ensure all bricks stored on-site are not exposed to rain. Failure to prevent moisture from entering the brickwork during construction may result in efflorescence and other leaching issues.

Copings, Sills, Weathering

Storm water should be shed so as to clear the masonry immediately below. Copings and sills should project at least 10 mm 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.

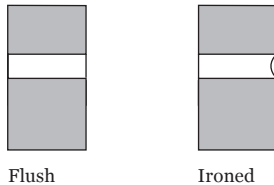
Mortar Joint

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.

An ironed or raked joint will emphasise the irregular shape of the brick.

In exposure environments, an ironed joint should be used.



Cutting

Clean water is to be used for all brick cutting. If the water is not cleaned, the dark water will be absorbed into the brick and cause it to discolour.

Brick Cleaning

The use of the correct cleaning methods will prevent further problems arising.

Safety Precautions

The manufacturer's instructions and safety precautions should always be followed when using acids and other proprietary cleaning chemicals.

Clean As You Go

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).

To maintain the white finish on the bricks, it is recommended that **no high pressure water is applied.**

This applies to the Reclaimed and Smoked ranges and any Corso product that is smoked (has white finish applied to face)

Cleaning procedure:

- Wet wall from bottom to top with hose
- Combine 1 part hydrochloric acid to 20 parts water
- Apply the acid solution using a stiff bristle brush and covering a small area at a time (never use a wire brush as this could ruin the surface of the brick). 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
- Neutralise with 40g of bi-carb soda per litre of water

Note – if cleaning Corso bricks that do not have the white finish, a high pressure cleaner can be used at a maximum 100psi and at a minimum distance of 500mm.