

The Benefits of lime mortar with handmade bricks

General

Choosing the correct mortar is just as important as selecting the best brick. The key considerations are driven by technical performance, environmental considerations and aesthetics.

Lime mortars are aesthetically more pleasing due to the larger aggregate particles and the softer colouration. This is especially true when used in conjunction with “premium” bricks such as hand- made bricks.

The construction industry is always looking at ways to minimise the environmental impact of both initial build as well as the life time of buildings with Sustainability at the forefront. Lime mortars require less energy to produce than cement and hence lower CO2 emissions as well as re-absorbing CO2 during setting.

Lime mortars having been produced from naturally occurring limestone deposits, have no cement content and have a high free lime content resulting in a slow carbonation set ensuring the flexibility and vapour permeability of the mortar are maximised, and the final strength of the mortar will be compatible with softer handmade bricks

Due to their higher flexibility, lime mortars significantly reduce the need for movement joints, creating a more pleasing look. They also have self-repairing properties “autogenous healing” as any cracks that appear in the mortar will re-seal when the mortar next becomes wet, typically through rain fall.

Lime Mortars offer good vapour permeability, which enables the building to “breathe”, allowing moisture movement through the building and assisting in the drying out process.

Due to its characteristic pore structure, it allows the free flow of moisture in and out of the building preventing damp, green mould and moisture build up in the cavities. This means less requirement for the placement of weep holes, minimal efflorescence and will considerably enhance the durability of the structure preventing frost damage “spalling” in the masonry units.

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