

GENERAL INFORMATION

New brickwork should be designed and constructed in accordance with the recommendations set out in BS EN 1996 - series (Eurocode 6).

STORAGE AND HANDLING

Packs of bricks should be stored on firm, dry, level ground as near to the work as possible to avoid double handling. Un-opened packs supplied without pallets can be stacked to a maximum of five high in the right conditions. A site risk assessment should be carried out, taking into account the ground conditions and available lifting equipment, to decide if lower stacking heights are appropriate.

Packs should be protected from splashing, saturation and frost.

COLOUR MIXING

To achieve brickwork with a good blend of colour and texture, bricks should be:

- Mixed simultaneously from at least three packs, and ideally from different delivery consignments.

- Drawn vertically down through the pack, rather than horizontally in layers.

- Built using the face uppermost in the pack as the finished face of the brickwork.

Note that certain blended products are supplied with specific instruction labels in the pack, in which case those instructions should be followed.

WASTAGE

Unfortunately, it is inevitable that a number of bricks in each delivery will be damaged or otherwise unsuitable for use. The industry practice is to allow for up to 5% wastage when ordering. Please inform our Sales Department if this is exceeded, and retain the damaged bricks for inspection.

CUTTING

The best results are obtained by using a wet blade for cutting. It is essential that clean non-circulated water is used to prevent slurry lodging within the texture of the brick. It is important that airborne dust be kept to a minimum and that suitable protective equipment is worn when cutting or chiselling brick.

LAYING

Our bricks should be used following reference to current building standards and codes of practice. Frogged bricks should be laid frog up to allow water to drain easily from their faces. When bricks are dry they should be dampened prior to use to prevent the mortar joints drying out too rapidly.

STAINING

Staining of finished brickwork, such as efflorescence, iron and lime staining can be greatly reduced by protecting bricks from saturation both prior to and during construction.

CLEANING

Proprietary brick cleaning agents may be used according to the manufacturers' instructions. On no account use a wire brush or a pressure washer; a stiff bristle type is sufficient. The affected brickwork should be washed down with clean water, but saturation of the brickwork should be avoided.

The purpose of this guide is to provide you with a practical specification and design tool. Within the following pages, you may find reference to the wide range of Michelmersh products that are available. We hope that you will find this guide as useful in your everyday work as it was designed to be. We look forward to speaking to you personally, should you require any further information, please contact Michelmersh's Technical Department on 0844 931 0022 or email technical@mbhplc.co.uk.

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