

SITE GUIDE

MORTAR

SITE GUIDE No 6: WINTER WORKING

RECOMMENDATIONS FOR LSM (LIME:SAND), READY-TO-USE (RTU) AND DRY SILO (DSM) MORTARS

RECOMMENDATIONS

Follow these simple guidelines to achieve best results.

- Use at least Mortar designation (iii), prescribed mortars 1:1:5 to 6 or mortar class M4 mix.
- Specify air entrainment in LSM (already in RTU and DSM mortars)
- Ensure correct cement gauging for LSM mortars.
- Store LSM on firm base and cover with waterproof sheeting.
- Protect RTU mortars in tubs (insulate top if possible).
- Do not use frozen mortar or masonry units.
- Keep bricks/blocks dry – saturated masonry units should not be used.
- Do not work below +3°C if temperature is falling or + 1°C if temperature is rising. (see code of practice – BS8000).
- Protect masonry with waterproof sheeting for several days after construction (leave an air gap)
- Prop incomplete masonry if strong winds are likely.
- Allow more time for mortar to set and harden.
- Do not add 'anti-freeze' or accelerating admixtures on site.

NOTES

- Tarmac RTU and DSM mortars and correctly gauged, air entrained Lime:Sand mortars are very resistant to frost attack.
- Ready-to-use mortars, if frozen may safely be used after complete thawing within the time scale of the material.
- Water should be prevented from entering new masonry until permanent protection is provided, e.g. by roof or coping.
- Provision of an air gap between sheeting and masonry allows drying out and prevents sweating.
- Where the air temperature falls below 0°C for a period of 24 hours or below -4°C at any time, Tarmac may be unable to deliver, and the operation of a Silo mixer may not be possible.

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