

CERAMIC BRICK SLIPS INSTALLATION GUIDELINE

1. SCOPE

The following installation guideline (the Guideline) details the methods and materials recommended by leading European brick slip manufacturers for the fixing of brick slip materials to building façades.

All primers, membranes, adhesives and grouts shall be mixed and applied in accordance with the manufacturer's recommendations. It is recommended that various products used are sourced from a single manufacturer to ensure compatibility rather than selecting various products from different manufactures.

2. SUBSTRATE

This Guideline is applicable for a range of substrate material including in situ concrete, pre-cast concrete panels, block work and light weight material such as fibre cement sheeting or similar proprietary walling systems. In all cases the wall façade engineer or wall manufacturer is to ensure that the substrate system is designed and installed to support the necessary façade loads.

3. SUBSTRATE PREPARATION

Prior to priming the surfaces, the substrate should be cleaned and be free of dust, grime and dirt with no loose material. Preparation should include a 6000 psi water blast across all concrete surfaces.

Before applying the brick slips, the visible dimensions of the window and door lintels may need to be determined. It is rare with construction tolerances that the reveal and lintel measurements correspond perfectly to the standard brick slip sizes. The joints between the brick slips may need to be adjusted slightly to accommodate actual opening dimensions. The overview dimensions calculated are then also transferred to the outside corners.



Window lintel replicated with angles

4. PRIMER

All surfaces should be primed using a suitable material as recommended by the façade engineer, wall manufacturer or membrane/adhesive manufacturer.

5. SURFACE IRREGULARITIES

If necessary, any surface irregularities should be levelled out using a skim coat render. This may be particularly necessary on block work walls.

6. SEALING AND SEPARATING WATERPROOFING LAYER / MEMBRANE

The application of a sealing slurry waterproof membrane is generally recommended. The material to be used should ideally be a single or two component cementitious sealing slurry membrane applied in accordance with manufacturers recommendations.

7. ADHESIVE

Brick slips should be fixed to the building façade utilising a high quality two component cementitious adhesive specifically recommended by the manufacturer for external use on a building façade. Brick slips should be applied using the combined floating-buttering method as described in AS 3958.1-2007. The adhesive should as a minimum meet the requirements of a C2 FT S2 adhesive under AS ISO 13007.1-2013 or equivalent international standards. In order to minimise the risks associated with efflorescence the adhesive should be certified as lime free.



The corner angles are worked using the floating-buttering method



Use a string line to plumb the brick area. The brick slips are pressed into the adhesive bed



The finished surface prior to grouting which can be done following the appropriate drying time

8. GROUTING

After applying the brick slips and after a corresponding adhesive drying time in accordance with manufacturer's recommendations, the completed brick slip wall should be grouted using a high quality lime free flexible grout. Grout colour used should be in accordance with the architect's specification.

Brick slips with smooth surfaces can be processed by the slurry method. Alternatively, all rough, patinated and textured surfaces should be grouted with a conventional pointing trowel and a metal float.

Slurry Method



With the slurry method, the joints are filled diagonally with the grouting or plaster float. Walls should be worked from top to bottom



The excess grout is washed off diagonally using a plaster float with a sponge or foam pad



The finished joint pattern after grouting. Sweeping out the joint gives a corresponding structure

Pointing Method



Conventional grouting using a pointed trowel and metal float along the horizontal



The vertical joints can be finished more easily with a smaller pointing trowel



Grouting with a trowel provides the opportunity to create profiled joints



Sweeping out the joint gives a corresponding structure



The finished joint pattern, which will be flexible and efflorescence free. Full masonry stretches are grouted at one go.

9. EXPANSION JOINTS

Expansion joints, interfaces with other finishes (metal reveals around window openings), the base and head of the façade face should be sealed with an appropriate silicone based caulking material. Ideally the caulking material to be used should match the colour of the grout.

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