

Heritage Cob & Lime

'Restoring the past for the future'



Guide sheets: Lime Pointing

Preparation: Using a plugging chisel or picking hammer to ensure the stone or bricks are not forced apart, rake out existing pointing that is defective to a depth usually equal to twice the width of the joint, and not less than 20mm.

Damping: Joints should be first dampened, leaving enough time for the stone or brick face to dry to prevent smearing. Mortar should be as dry as practicable to allow maximum compaction in the joint. This will also reduce cracking and shrinkage.

Gauging: We suggest a 3/1 mix of good quality, coarse sharp sand to mature lime putty for internal and external pointing.

Pointing: Start at the top and work down to allow for cleaning up and spraying to continue. Use a pointing key or metal spatula and force mortar into joints from a hawk. If joints are deeper than 20mm, they will need to be dubbed out first to avoid shrinkage. Pointing can either be finished flush or rebated a little, depending on the width of the joints and personal preference.

Brushing: Once the mortar is 'green hard' i.e. firm enough to brush without smearing but still malleable) brush or tamp the joints with a churn brush. This will enhance the aggregate and give a coarser texture to the pointing.

Protection: To control the rate of drying, external pointing should be mist sprayed. It should also be protected from the direct sun, wind, and frost in the winter time. We recommend using hessian cloth for this purpose.

Quantities: 20kg of lime putty mortar will point 2-3 sq metres of average size stonework or 1– 1.5 sq metres of brickwork based on a joint 10 mm wide and 20 mm deep.

Safety: Lime is a caustic substance so always wear eye protection and protective gloves and clothing. Please follow the safety instructions listed on our labels. Our advice and information is given in good faith. Users should satisfy themselves that the product they have chosen is appropriate for the job and that it will be used by a suitably skilled workforce.

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