

## FIREBORN GLAZED CLAY UNITS - Handling & Laying guidelines

### GOOD SITE PRACTICE

Fireborn Glazed units leave the factory quality checked and are protectively packaged. To minimise damage on site, the following guidelines are strongly recommended.

- Careful handling on site of glazed units is imperative.
- Do not allow glazed units to come into direct contact with the ground to avoid contamination.
- Do not stack pallets of glazed units.
- Keep units dry. Cover with waterproof sheeting but allow air to circulate.
- Keep products in original packaging for as long as possible.
- Do not stack individual units.
- Do not use the edge of the trowel for levelling.

Weep holes, vents and cavity trays should be incorporated in accordance with BS 5628

Part 3. these are critical to glazed brick walls as the impervious finish does not permit the face of the brick to breathe.

Ensure during construction that the cavity is kept clean to permit this system to work.

As with all glazed ceramic products, subtle colour variations are to be expected. The units should, therefore, be blended from several pallets during construction.

### CUTTING & DRILLING

- Site cutting of glazed products is not recommended. Special sizes need to be ordered and cut before glazing.
- When drilling use a low speed, water fed, segmented diamond drill bit. Keep water on area whilst drilling. Do not allow drill bit to become overheated.

### LAYING

The units should be laid with the perforations vertical. Strength calculations may be compromised if the units are not laid as specified.

The larger sizes are relatively heavy (4 ½ brick equivalent) and laying them is a two handed operation.

Dependant on the mortar characteristics and weather conditions there will obviously be restrictions in the number of courses that can be laid in one day as with normal bricks, however, incorporating a proprietary masonry support system such as Brikmat® will prevent mortar being squeezed out of the joints by the weight of the subsequent courses and can significantly increase the amount of courses that can be laid in a day.

**Mortar** - Normally a designation (ii) mortar mix (1: ½ : 4 ½, cement lime sand or equivalent) will be the most appropriate mixed to a relatively stiff consistency bearing in mind the weight of the larger units.

Use full mortar beds and a nominal 10mm joint thickness, fully filling perpend.

**Do not use a sealer on mortar joints or waterproofing agents in the mortar.**

**Joint Finish** – Curved recessed (bucket handle) or flush - normally flush. Mortar must cover unglazed bed face - white cement is often used.

**Movement joints** – at normal recommended spacing for clay units, please ask for Design Advice. Where bed-joint reinforcement is used joint spacing may be increased.

**Wall tie spacing** – at normal centres as per Code of Practice BS 5628 Part 3.

**Stack bonding** - Where stack-bonding is employed, stainless-steel ladder type bed joint reinforcement should be used to ensure adequate load distribution and bonding and be laid in accordance with manufacturers instructions. Care in setting out is required in stack-bonded situations to ensure uniformity of vertical joints.

A flattened wire section will be needed to ensure compatibility with wall ties. Ibstock can offer further advice in this area.

### CLEANING

Use a wooden tool to remove any lumps of mortar from the glazed surfaces. With gloss products, mortar splashes may be removed immediately, after jointing, surfaces should be polished with a soft cloth to avoid the need for any further cleaning.

If there is still a bloom on the glazed surface, wash the area with very dilute acid-based cleaner, then rinse. This should remove the residue. (Trial and error may be needed to determine an effective mix.)

For matt-glazed units, follow the recommendations for Standard Fireborn units.

For further advice on Fireborn Glazed Units or help with design and detailing call the Ibstock Design & Technical Helpline on **0844 800 4576**.

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