

GLAZED BRICK

Laying & handling guidelines

GOOD SITE PRACTICE

Glazed products 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.
- ◆ Do not stack pallets of glazed units.
- ◆ Keep units dry. Cover with waterproof sheeting but allow air to circulate.
- ◆ Do NOT lay a wet or stained product.
- ◆ Keep products in original packaging for as long as possible.
- ◆ Do not stack individual units.
- ◆ Do not use the metal edge of the trowel for levelling.

Weep holes, vents and cavity trays 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, shade variations are to be expected. The units should be blended from several pallets at once during construction.

CUTTING & DRILLING

- ◆ Site cutting of glazed products is not recommended. Sizes required 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.

CAUTION MUST BE TAKEN WHEN HANDLING CERAMIC GLAZED MATERIAL WHEN THE SURFACE HAS BEEN BROKEN RESULTING IN RAZOR SHARP EDGES. ALWAYS WEAR PROTECTIVE GLOVES, EYEWEAR AND CLOTHING.

LAYING

Glazed bricks should be laid in accordance with BS5628 Pt 3. These units are intended to be laid with the perforations vertical for maximum unit strength and bond strength with mortar. Compressive strength will be much reduced if the perforations are laid horizontally.

Mortar

Normally a designation (ii) mortar mix (1: ½ : 4 ½, cement lime sand or equivalent) or (iii) (1:1: 5or 6) will be the most appropriate .

Lay on a full bed of mortar and fully fill perpends- nominal 10mm joint thickness. Thinner joints maybe used subject to mortar characteristics but face fixing of ties to the inner leaf may then be necessary.

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. Where bed-joint reinforcement is used joint spacing may be increased.

Wall tie spacing –at normal centres as 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. Ibstock can offer further advice in this area.

CLEANING

During construction try to avoid wiping the mortar residue onto the glazed surfaces.

Use a wooden tool to remove any clumps of mortar from the glazed surfaces.

To clean down after mortar has cured wash with clean running water and a rag or soft bristle brush, repeatedly rinsing out in water.

Do NOT use a power hose.

A detergent type cleaning agent may be used for stubborn areas. Be sure to wet the wall prior to application. A final rinse with clean running water should be carried out immediately.

If there is still a milky film 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.) Polish with a soft cloth when dry.

To clean graffiti from the walls, paint thinner or graffiti remover can be used following manufacturers instructions. Beware of yellowing of the mortar however.

On no account use cleaners containing hydrofluoric acid.

For further advice on Glazed Bricks or help with design and detailing call the Ibstock Brick Technical Services Helpline on **0870 903 4017** or Ibstock Brick Design Advice on **0870 903 4018**.