



Fat Lime Mortar - Quick Application Guide

TO BE READ IN CONJUNCTION WITH FULL APPLICATION GUIDE, MATERIAL TECHNICAL DATA SHEETS AND MATERIAL SAFETY DATA SHEETS WHERE APPLICABLE - See www.lime.org.uk for all TDS & MSDS.

1 Preparation

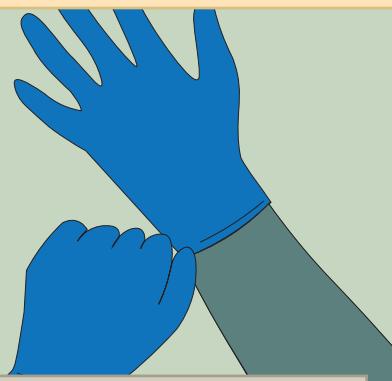
IMPORTANT: Protect your eyes with safety glasses (ones with sides) and keep eyewash close to hand!



Tip: Lime is caustic and can seriously damage eyes. Goggles are essential at all stages.

2

IMPORTANT: Wear gloves and cover skin. Lime burns are gradual (i.e. you don't feel them at the time) but can be very serious so PPE is essential.



Tip: Thin, disposable gloves are easiest to work with.

3

"Knock-it up" – a premixed mortar when purchased may appear hard/ dry, it just requires mixing/ knocking up/ agitating.



Tip: Knocking up can take up to 25 minutes until workable.

4

The mortar can be knocked up (the process of chopping, beating and turning) using a mortar mill or for smaller quantities a whisk bit on a drill. This process will release the water already present in the mix.



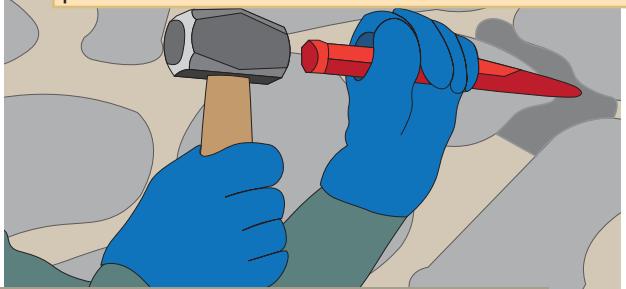
Tip: Water should ONLY be added **CAUTIOUSLY** if the mortar is still too dry **AFTER** being 'knocked up'. Cement mixers will not agitate the mix adequately, so please call if you are having issues.

5

Keep the mortar stiff - mortar for pointing should be kept stiff and dry in order to compress it into the joint without smearing. Mortar for laying/ bedding works needs to be a little wetter but should still be kept as stiff as possible to avoid excessive shrinkage. The mortar needs to be just wet enough to be workable - see our online video for more information at www.lime.org.uk.

6

Take out any loose old mortar. Particularly any cementitious mortar. A tungsten tipped chisel could be used for raking out, especially on brickwork to protect the arises.



Tip: Rake out to a depth three times the width of the joint or at least 25mm. Great care should be taken if removing a hard, cement mortar as damage can easily be done to stone/brickwork.

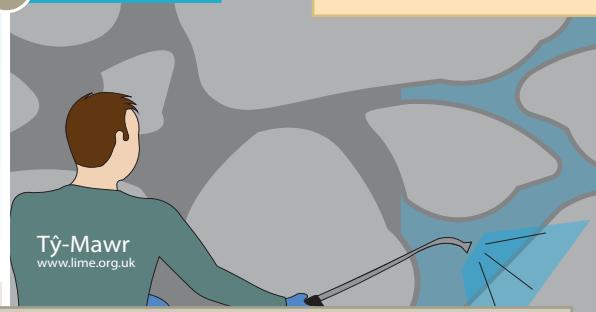


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7 Preparation

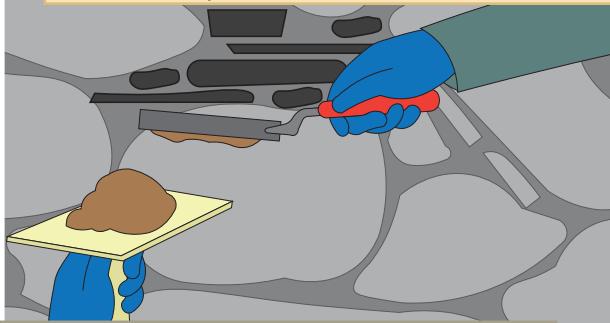
Dampen the background.



Tip: Assess the moisture content of the background – for dry substrates, dampen all stones/bricks and adjoining surfaces by spraying with water or immersing in water, otherwise the background will ‘suck’ the moisture out of the mortar before it sets, causing it to turn to dust.

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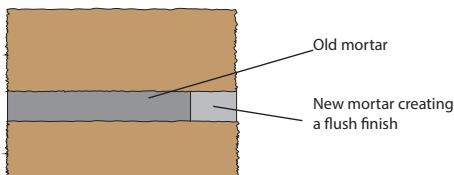
Push the mortar firmly into the joint. Bring out mortar joints in layers of up to 10mm-15mm thick to allow carbonation, using a pointing or finger trowel from a small plastic resin hawk.



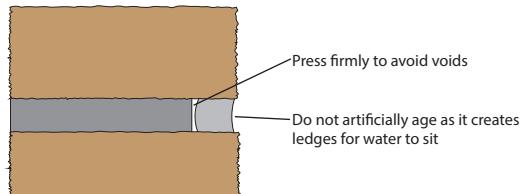
Tip: Large holes should be packed with gallots/pinnings - small pieces of stone or bricks, as large volumes of mortar will shrink and fall out.

9

Good Example



Poor Example



Cross sections of good and bad pointing.

10

- Leave each coat until it is set, but not dried out - the mortar should be ‘too hard to dent with a knuckle yet soft enough to dent with a fingernail’.
- It should be left to ‘stiffen up’ for up to 24hrs (depending on the speed of drying). Only then it can be worked over to compress it (to overcome shrinkage) and to produce the required finish.
- Please see our knowledge hub for advice on using mortar guns.

11

Brush and beat when firm with a churn brush, to compress and achieve desired finish.



Tip: The ideal is to finish the mortar flush with brickwork/ stonework so as to not create ledges for water to sit on.

12

Common Mistakes/ Troubleshooting

If you are experiencing problems (cracking, crumbling, dusting, failure) - please refer to our trouble shooting section on the website www.lime.org.uk for possible causes and preventative and remedial actions.



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13 Protection of the work

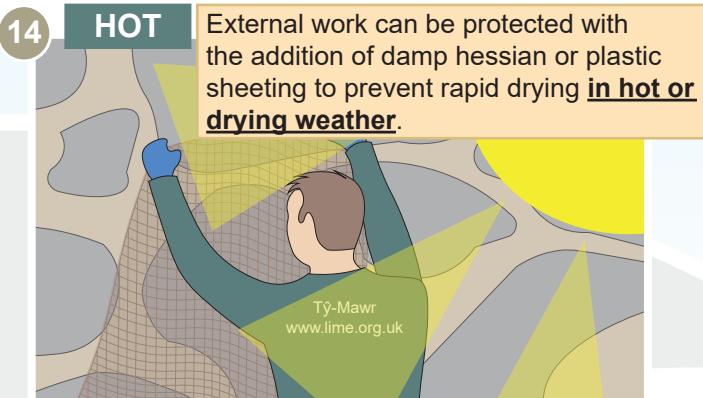
DRY & WINDY



Gently spray the work in dry or windy conditions for up to seven days. If a mortar is drying too quickly, it will not carbonate and hence it can fail.

14

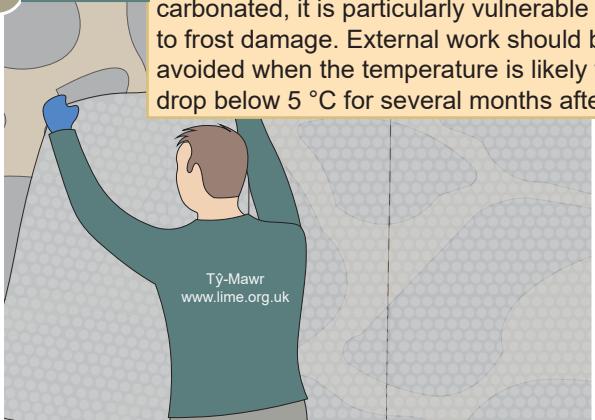
HOT



External work can be protected with the addition of damp hessian or plastic sheeting to prevent rapid drying **in hot or drying weather**.

15 FROST

Avoid the frost - before lime mortar has carbonated, it is particularly vulnerable to frost damage. External work should be avoided when the temperature is likely to drop below 5 °C for several months after.



Tip: Protection should be removed when the conditions are right to encourage carbonation, and then reapplied. It is not a case of putting it up and leaving it.

16 WET



Tip: Varying protection according to conditions is essential for a successful long term mortar.

17

Store airtight and frost free.



Tip: Mortars will start to harden from the day they are made (but will not carbonate in a sealed container). The older the mortar, the harder it will be to 'knock up' and will take longer to mix but it still is perfectly fine.

After Care

Your finished lime mortar will protect your building for years to come. We highly recommend that if you are intending to paint the wall, then it should be finished with a 'breathable' and preferably natural paint, your choice will depend on the level of durability, required vapour control and desired aesthetic. Leave fat lime mortars 4-6 weeks before applying clay paints (suitable for internal only), and 4-8 weeks before applying silicate paints externally.

Call 01874611350 for advice or visit www.lime.org.uk for options.



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Every effort has been made to ensure the accuracy of the colour and texture of products on this guide but due to the limitations of print, we strongly recommend that sample products are purchased for testing in situ prior to the full order being placed.

Availability

25kg Bags

20L Buckets

1 Tonne Bulk Bags

Approximate Coverage Rates

Mortar - Building

- 1 tonne will lay 900 bricks in a 225mm thick wall.
- (1 x 25 kg bag will lay 22 bricks in a 225mm thick wall.)
- 1 tonne will lay 4sqm of 450mm thick rubble stonework (varies depending on size of stone).
- (1 x 25 kg bag will lay 0.1sqm of 450mm thick rubble stonework.)

Mortar - Pointing

- 1 tonne covers 100sqm brickwork.
- 1 x 25 kg bag covers 2.5sqm brickwork.
- 1 x 25 kg bag 45 linear metres @ 10mm x 25mm joints.
- 1 x 25 kg bag covers 30 linear metres @ 15mm x 25mm joints.
- 1 tonne covers 40sqm stonework (varies depending on size of stone and joints).
- 1 x 25 kg bag covers 1sqm.

See our quantity calculator on www.lime.org.uk for assistance with calculating the quantity as well as the type of materials you may require.

For further information about the whole subject and illustrated diagrams of lime plastering and pointing techniques, see *The Lime Handbook* now available to order on www.lime.org.uk

Health and Safety Information

Warning

Skin Irritation 2 H315 - Causes skin irritation

STOT SE 3 H335 - May cause respiratory problems



Danger

Eye Damage 1 H318 - Causes serious eye damage

Precautionary Statements

P102 Keep out of reach of children

P280 Wear protective gloves, eye protection/face mask.

P305 + P351 + P310 If in eyes rinse cautiously with water for several minutes and immediately get medical assistance.

P352 + P352 If on skin, wash affected area part immediately with plenty of soap and water.