

# LIME IN MORTARS

MASONRY MORTARS, PLASTERS AND RENDERS  
– THE BENEFITS FOR THE CONTRACTOR



The builder of a masonry structure requires that the mortar being used is workable and of a consistency which allows for easy handling. The joints and beds of masonry mortar must be readily and completely filled, while the units must be placed and their position adjusted quickly and easily. The mortar, renders and plasters must have properties which help the craftsman to work smoothly, quickly and economically with minimum waste and consistent work quality.



**Incorporating lime** in the mortar mix helps to fulfil all of these requirements.



### **Workability**

Using lime adds a fine particle binding agent which has a very high surface area. This enables the mix to hold a greater quantity of water. It also has the twin benefits of enhancing the fluidity of the mix and improving its stability.

### **Building**

The increased water retention provided by lime also gives the practical benefits of allowing easy repositioning and adjustment immediately after placing. This is due to the fact that the mortar remains workable for longer under the suction effect of the brick or block.

### **Versatility**

Mortars containing sufficient lime also remain workable for longer in the tub or on the spot board, allowing for longer time periods between replenishments of the mix.

### **Work quality**

The smoother, more workable consistency of lime-based mortars and the retention of workability in the mortar immediately after application promotes good workmanship and by enabling the complete filling of beds, perpend more easily and allowing smooth finishing of the plaster. Joint finishing and tooling is therefore accomplished to a high standard. This helps to ensure the quality and watertightness of the masonry and renders.

### **Economy & value**

Lime-based mortars can be more economical to use. The combination of the workability, water retention and easier use with more consistently accurate joint filling and better adhesion, can lead to less waste. Achieving higher quality of workmanship will also reduce the likelihood of rework or remedial measures.



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