

HOW TO GUIDELINES – AccuMix Preblended Masonry Cements

Mixing:

AccuMix PCL Mortar Mix only requires the addition of water. Machine mixing should be used whenever possible. Add sufficient water to produce a workable mix. Mortar should be mixed for at least three to five minutes.

Water: All water should be clean and free from organic material and deleterious amounts of dissolved acids, alkalis and salts.

Retempering: To minimize retempering, mortar should not be mixed more than 15 minutes prior to use. Retempering will not adversely affect mortar quality if only evaporated water is replaced. No mortar should be used or retempered beyond 2½ hours after the initial mixing. Colored mortar should not be retempered.

Application: Good workmanship principles are required for successful application, including proper filling of head and bed joints, careful placement of units, appropriate tooling of the joint, modification of construction procedures and/or schedules to adapt to extreme weather conditions, and proper cleaning procedures.

Tooling of Joints: Tooling of mortar joints increases the density, durability and water tightness of the mortar surface. Masonry joints should be tooled at the same degree of stiffness and moisture. The moisture content of the mortar when tooled will affect the color; the drier the mortar, the darker its final color. If joints are tooled too early, excess water will be drawn to the surface, producing lighter joints.

Hot Weather Precautions: Mortars exposed to hot winds and full sun will tend to lose workability due to the evaporation of water. Common sense precautions should be taken to protect the mortar such as shading the mixer, wetting mortar boards, covering wheelbarrows and tubs, and balancing mortar production to meet demand. If it is necessary to restore workability, mortar may be retempered by adding water and remixing.

Cold Weather Precautions: Mortar should be maintained at a minimum temperature of 40° F as prescribed by standard cold weather masonry specifications. Cold weather admixtures should be approved by the architect.