

Mortar Mixes For Gun Applied Pointing

Application

For fast and efficient mechanical mortar pointing or pumping it is recommended that a pre-bagged mortar suitable for mechanical application is used such Parex mortar

Pre-bagged mortars offer consistent material quality, fast mixing and application rates

A pointing mortar should be about the consistency of yoghurt ie it will slump out of the mix bucket. If the mortar needs to be trowelled out it is too stiff

Sharp sand or builders sand is not suitable for gun or pump application. Sharp sand mixes are difficult to pump as the aggregate snags and the water is squeezed out of the mix leaving a slug that blocks the gun nozzle. Use soft, silver or riverbed sand. To minimise nozzle blocks, sieve the sand. Use a paddle mixer and thoroughly mix the mortar

Pumping aid and plasticiser admixes will improve the workability of a mortar and can be used to replace the hydraulic lime that has been traditionally used for pointing mixes

Fine Sand Mix

6 parts riverbed, playpit or soft sand

1 part cement

Pumping aid or plasticiser admix

Lime Mortar Mix

3 parts soft sand

1 part lime putty

Traditional Pointing Mix

6 parts soft sand

1 part lime putty

1 part cement

2 part hydrated lime

Mixing and Admixes

The mortar must be thoroughly mixed using a paddle mixer to achieve a homogeneous and lump free mix

Unmixed or dry lumps in the mix is the most common problem leading to blocked nozzles and down time

If using a lime mix let it stand for ten minutes and then remix before use

A pumping aid and plasticiser is suitable in some mixes in place of lime

Mixes need to be wetter if small nozzle sizes are used

Basics

- Use pre-bagged mortars where possible
- Material must be thoroughly mixed
- Keep restriction points ● at the pump, gun, nozzle & hose clean
- Ensure pump hopper & mechanisms are kept clean

It is worth testing the pointing mix through a hand operated mortar gun to confirm the mix will pump before hiring or ordering a pump

For successful application, it is essential that the mortar is thoroughly mixed and builders or sharp sand is not used

Ensure the pump, hose and nozzles are kept clean and block free

