

Working with Lime Mortar in Summer Conditions

Protection must be given against extremes of hot weather, drying winds, direct sunlight, and in particular high temperatures.

Protection should be considered for all mortar work in the early stages after placing, the degree of protection and the time will depend on ambient conditions.

1. Lime mortars do build up strength much slower but in extreme weather of direct sunlight, warm drying winds and high temperatures protection should be provided during the setting process to prevent early drying out. Care should be taken for work to be covered as soon as possible with damp hessian draped over the masonry to maintain moisture and then additional cover to prevent hessian drying out. For best results moist conditions should be maintained with mist spraying, whilst also allowing air movement over the masonry, for as long as is practicable

2. In drying winds (but in cold conditions) dry hessian and a plastic sheet or bubble-wrap should be draped over the completed area to control evaporation and cooling of the wall.

3. In hot or windy conditions extra protection should be added to prevent evaporation of the water leading to loss of workability. Any slight loss of consistency may be restored by addition of small quantities of water up to 12hrs from initial water addition.

It is important not to let the mortar dry out too quickly as this will reduce the full setting process and its strength

4. Masonry should not be used if too hot or dry as moisture will be sucked from the mortar causing the mortar to go dead "false set" so wetting masonry prior to laying is a necessity to enable full set and bond

5. Protection with damp hessian sheet must also be given in drying winds. The damp hessian will create a humid environment and will help control the evaporation of water from the mortar. Hydraulic lime mortar needs water to be present to enable them to fully achieve a hydraulic set.

WARNING: Work should not be carried out if the temperature is above 30°C

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EcoRight Ltd is a member of **The Building Limes Forum**, a charitable organisation which works Internationally to promote research and education and to encourage expertise and understanding in the use of building limes.



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