

C41 REPOINTING

To be read with preliminaries/general conditions

PREPARATION FOR REPOINTING

- 110 Inspect the work with the CA and agree details of areas to be replaced or replaced, pointing style, method and appearance.
- 120 **SOUND MORTAR:** which is existing and is full in the joint and protecting the edges of the stones/bricks is to be left. Loose material is to be raked out. Where repointing is specified, this will match the weathering of the pointing in the general area, which will be kept back from the arises.
- 130 **INAPPROPRIATE MORTAR:** where specified, carefully remove hard cementitious mortar (whether flush or projecting) to behind existing line of the wall face, avoiding damage to the adjacent stonework/brickwork. If removal of mortar cannot be achieved without damage to arises, notify the CA for further instructions.
- 140 **CUTTING OUT:** cut loose and perished mortar out with extreme care to avoid damage to adjacent masonry, fine points between ashlar and dressed stones are to be cut out with a raking tool or hacksaw blade narrower than the joint; other joints are to be cut out by hand using fine tools.
- 150 **PROTECTION:** protect all adjacent surfaces from spillage or materials or damage during cutting out. Do not point in frosty weather or when frost is anticipated during the first 48 hours of setting. Protect from rain during initial setting and protect from excessively fast drying out in hot weather by shading from the sun and/or draping with wet sacking.

REMOVAL OF CEMENT REPOINTING AND PREVIOUS PLASTIC REPAIR

- 210 Where mortar is substantially decayed it is to be raked out by hand with a knife blade or bent spike. Where the mortar is harder and is causing problems because of its high strength, impermeability and tendency to trap water behind it, the mortar is to be cut out. This can be carried out using a fire sharpened chisel with a claw bit end, which is always of a width which is less than the joint itself.
- 220 Cutting out using the above chisel and a 2½ lb club hammer must be along the direction of the joint not across it, to avoid damage to arises. This technique must not be used where the joints are likely to be stressed and cause spalling. instead use a small disc cutter and cut through the centre of the mortar joint prior to cutting out the remaining mortar by the above method. Joints below 5 mm thickness need to be sawn out with hacksaw blades set in purpose made two piece handles.
- 230 As a general requirement, joints should be cleaned out to a minimum depth of 25 mm (1") and never to a depth less than their width. Wide joints, especially those liable to exposure and extreme weathering should be cut out to a depth of 38 mm (1.5").
- 240 Note: As the use of grinders requires expert skill and judgement, use of grinders must be limited to those operatives on site who have had samples of cutting out approved by the CA.

REPOINTING

- 310 **REPOINTING GENERALLY:** Thoroughly wet all joins to be pointed. Fill joints using a pointing iron (not wider than the joint) which can push mortar very firmly into the cavity and avoid the spread of mortar into the adjacent masonry face (trowels are not to be used for repointing). The mortar is to be kept 1-2 mm back from the face so that the arises are kept clean. The finished packed joint must be tamped with the ends of a flat bristle brush to raise the joint texture and to give a stippled effect. Clean off any 'run off' or mortar from the surrounding stone/brick immediately.
- 320 **SURFACE FINISH TO MORTAR:** Where repointing is carried out and the surrounding stones/bricks are blackened, the surface of the joint can be 'toned down' using a water glass solution prepared using lime

water obtained by skimming off the water/lime layer from the tubs of lime putty, with the addition of crushed charcoal and earth pigments. This is to be mixed, tested and approved by the CA.

Note: This solution may also be used on the plastic (mortar) repairs and indents for the same effect.

- 330 SHALLOW REPOINTING: Point up in a single application of repointing mortar. Allow for repointing all open joints. Areas of loose mortar to be removed. Sound black mortar not forming a projecting shelf or overhang to be retained.
- 340 DEEP REPOINTING: Tamp in mortar, force and compress the mortar to the back of the joint, to finish 1-2 mm back from the pointing face. When deeper layers of mortar have set, point up with a single application of mortar.
- 350 FINE JOINTS REPOINTING: Attach heavy duty canvas backed adhesive tape over the centre line of the cut out joint, and press firmly to ensure adhesion. Slit the tape through the joint using a sharp knife. Finish the open joint with a fine water set and firmly press the mortar into the joint using a filling knife. Remove the tape and pack the mortar face with a small iron or copper flat.
- 360 MORTAR MIX FOR SHALLOW WORK:
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|----------------|-------------------------|
| 1 | 3 |
| hydraulic lime | well graded washed sand |
- 370 MORTAR MIX FOR DEEP WORK:
- | | |
|----------------|-------------------------|
| 1 | 3 |
| hydraulic lime | well graded washed sand |