

Acid washing of brickwork

New rules – PLEASE NOTE!

- Pre and after-watering are no longer required.
- The concentration of acid must be lower than before

1. Clean wall!

Acid washing can result in colour changes in bricks and mortar, and acids which penetrate into the brickwork weaken the mortar and slow its hardening. Try, therefore, to lay the bricks as cleanly as possible so that acid washing can be avoided altogether.

2. Pretreatment

Brush the wall with a dry broom to remove excess mortar and ensure that horizontal and vertical surfaces with scraped-off joints are brushed clean. Adhering mortar can be removed with a piece of brick from the same delivery.

3. Acid treatment

If washing is required, mix 32% acetic acid with water in the ratio 1:10.

4. Acid washing

It is important that the washing is done at the most favourable time, and that as little acid as possible is used. If the washing is done too early, mortar will be brushed out on to the surface of the bricks, appearing as a grey discolouration on the surface of the brickwork when it dries out. If the washing is done too late, excessive quantities of acid are required.

Acid washing is normally done 5-24 hours after the brickwork is erected, depending on:

- The content of binding materials in the mortar
- The brickwork's absorbency
- The weather

The acid must be replaced at intervals, as polluted acid can cause discolouration. Washing must be done from the top down, and should only be done once. Acetic acid can cause whitish discoloured deposits of soluble salts on the brickwork. These can be removed by dry brushing followed by washing off with water. If not washed off, they will normally disappear of their own accord within 6-12 months.

For products:

D49·D51·D54
D55·D58·D70
D71·D72·D76
D78·D91·D98
D99

Source: MURO
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