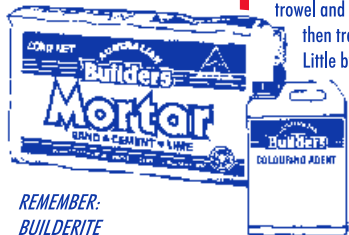


REPOINTING BRICKWORK



Repointing your home's brick work is probably something you haven't given much thought to, however if you live near a coastal area, an area that is excessively windy or if your home is ageing. Erosion of your brick mortar joints is inevitable. Regular inspections of your home's brick work is an essential task. Loose bricks and missing mortar can allow rodents, wasps, spiders to habitat your cavities. Left unattended a minor repair job can lead to an overwhelming repair nightmare... Don't be alarmed be armed, don't put off those little repairs... besides they're easy, when you follow our project guide sheet. HAPPY BUILDING!



REMEMBER:
BUILDERITE
THE FIRST TIME.

STEP 1:

Prepare the brickwork for repointing. Firstly rake out the damaged & powdery mortar. Clean up the joints between the bricks, using a club hammer and pointing chisel. **Hint:** An old screwdriver does the job just as well. See diagram 1. Chisel out the damaged mortar to a depth of about 15 mm. **Hint:** Never remove all the mortar around a brick, because you will have to "re-seat" the brick if it drops out of position. No point making more work for yourself! Chisel out damaged horizontal joints first, then chisel out all of the vertical joints. Ensure the bottom of the joint you are chiselling out is left even.



STEP 2:

Brush out any remaining brick dust or rubble with the aid of a stiff hand brush or an old (100 mm) paintbrush. Now using another paintbrush and some clean water, thoroughly soak the raked out joints and bricks to prevent having too much water being absorbed from the new mortar. See diagram 2 & 3.

The new mortar would not cure correctly, resulting in poor quality mortar. **Hint:** Australian Builders Mortar is of the highest quality and mixed according to user and safety directions on packaging will result in a superior long lasting finish.

STEP 3:

Mix up a batch of Australian Builders Mortar. **Hint:** Only mix small quantities at a time as repointing is time consuming, you don't want your mortar setting before you can use it. The amount to mix depends on how quickly you can work.

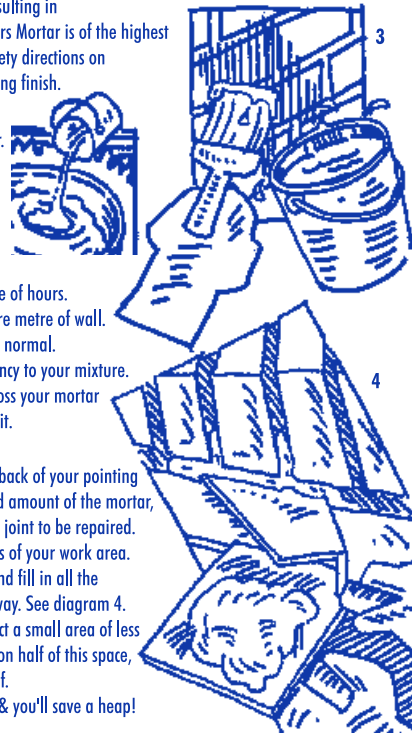
A mortar mix is workable for at best a couple of hours. As a guide: 2 1/2 litre buckets for one square metre of wall. This allows for a margin of wastage which is normal.

Hint: Try to get a workable, but stiff consistency to your mixture. To check this out, drag your trowel point across your mortar mixture. It should leave a "wrinkle" trail on it.

STEP 4:

Now you're ready to start repointing. Use the back of your pointing trowel and pick up a small "sausage" shaped amount of the mortar, then transfer and press it firmly into the joint to be repaired. Little by little, fill in all the vertical joints of your work area.

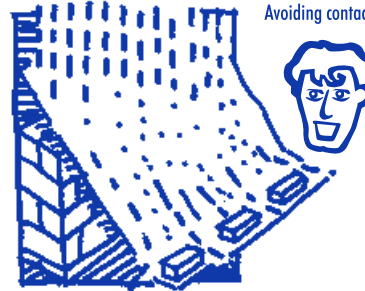
Then, go back over the area and fill in all the horizontal joints in the same way. See diagram 4. **Hint:** Start from one end. Select a small area of less than one square metre. Work on half of this space, before proceeding to other half. Give it a go... it's worth doing & you'll save a heap!



REPOINTING BRICKWORK



There's no better feeling than when you're nearing the end of another successful B.I.Y. project. You've accomplished something that you can be very proud of. You pack up your tools, put them away and head for the shower. A good day's work done. Congratulations! Next day you wander out, to be dazzled by your brilliant handy work only to discover it rained over night and all your hard work is ruined. If only you had taken the extra few minutes to cover up! **Remember:** Cement based products need time to cure and set properly. Rain can damage new mortar, cement and concrete.



STEP 5:

As the mortar starts to set or dry off. It's time to finish the job. Shape "rake" the new mortar joints to match the original joints that appear on the rest of the brick work. The easiest way is to purchase a raking tool from your hardware supplier, they're not expensive and the results are professional. Or you can use the end of a screwdriver handle, a home made brick rake, a flat head nail in a block of wood. The choice is yours. **Hint:** Make sure you match the existing joint style or no matter how good you've re-worked the joints, they will look out of place and de-value your property. See diagram 5.

See below for typical joint finishes and how to do.

A. (Flush joints)

Rub the surface of the pointing with a piece of sacking or hessian, so that it is smooth and level with the surrounding bricks. Remove any excess mortar from the face of the bricks by scraping an off-cut of timber across them. When it's all completely dried, give the area a thorough brushing to remove any excess material.

B. (Rule or Rounded Joints)

Follow flush joints preparation procedure. Additional work... starting with the vertical joints, press a rounding rake tool (or create your own using a piece of old metal piping, around 13 mm in diameter) and move it along the joints.

Hint: Take care not to press it in too deeply. When you've finished doing the vertical joints, do all of the horizontal joints. Once it's all dried, brush off any remaining mortar with a stiff brush. Avoiding contact with your new joint work.

C. (Raked or Recessed Joints)

Follow flush joints preparation procedure. Additional work... When the mortar is fairly dry, scrape all of the joints out to a depth of about 3 mm, using an off cut of wood the same width as the joints themselves. Verticals first. Using a rebated piece of wood, with a flat headed masonry nail driven into the rebate and protruding from it about 3mm simply scrape along each joint line. Scrape it against one joint edge then against the other. Once it's all dried, brush off any remaining mortar with a stiff brush. Avoiding contact with your new joint work.

There are other joints:

Tuck Pointing, Struck joints and eather struck joints. These are specialist brick craftsman effects. Have a go at them for sure, but first consult a specialist for expert advice. For most jobs the basics are right here on this project sheet. Remember: Aussie Builders BUILDERITE the first time!

