

Masonry Cladding

For the purpose of this document Masonry Cladding means thin sections of masonry each one fixed back to a frame or substructure or to themselves. The masonry will generally be between 1-1/2" and 2-3/4" thick.

Its main function will be decorative. Many cladding designs have units fixed in such a manner that normal masonry coursing and jointing is not part of the design and continuous perpendicular jointing is common.

Cladding can be laid on a bed of mortar or retrospectively jointed.

In many instances it is simpler to retrospectively joint the cladding as the bed width does not offer sufficient stability for the masonry to stand one unit on top of another and depends on mechanical attachments.

The design of the attachments will determine whether or not the construction can be built without movement joints. Mechanical attachments that have horizontal and vertical movement slots but provide lateral restraint usually allow walls to be constructed without movement joints, provided a mortar with a low modulus of elasticity is used.

The need for compressive strength in this type of work is not significant with a mortar 150-300 psi at 28 days being usually adequate for the purpose.

NHL 2 and NHL 3.5 are very suitable binders for the production of cladding mortars. Their elasticity moduli is adequate in most instances and their free lime content, mainly responsible for plasticity, is high (25% and 50 % respectively).

All above information is given as general indication only. Dosages and application may vary in accordance to materials and aggregates used and site conditions. Please consult with your St. Astier distributor to finalize mortars mixes. Good working practices in mortar mixing, protection and curing are assumed at all times.