

Product Care Guide



**BAINES
MASONRY**
Quality First

PRODUCT CARE GUIDE

Tech-Dry[®] Masonry

By specifying Tech-Dry Masonry some of the benefits that can be achieved are:

Pristine blocks - Surfaces resist long term efflorescence and remain pristine.

Dry blocks - Surfaces resist biological growth due to the masonry remaining dry.

Environmentally friendly - The building structure remains dry and is environmentally friendly as evaporation from damp external walls uses energy.

Rising damp is eliminated at base of wall

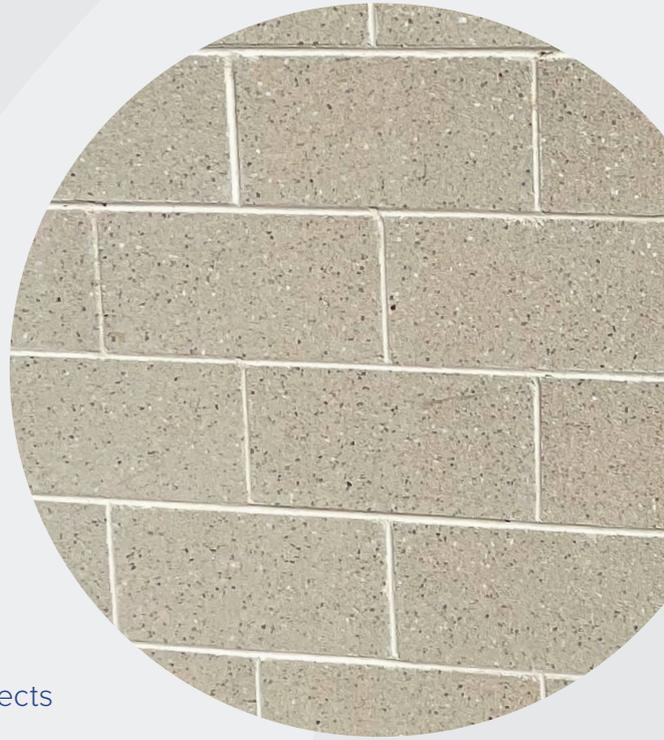
Erosion damage eliminated - Erosion damage due to the effects of salt from sea spray or salt-chlorinated pools is eliminated.

Clean surfaces - Surfaces do not require periodic painting or maintenance reducing the lifetime costs of the building.

Colour-fast surfaces due to water absorption, colours do not weather or deteriorate.

Innovative textures and contemporary colours

Natural stone appearance can be produced



Tech-Dryad[®] Mortar Additive

Tech-Dryad Mortar Additive is a water repellent admixture for cement/sand mortars. It not only makes the mortar water resistant and reduces the mortar efflorescing, but also improves the adhesion of the mortar to the water repellent blocks (or Tech-Dry Blocks) and improves the workability of the mortar mixture.

Techdryad Mortar Additive is recommended as a water repellent admixture for cement/sand mortar designed specifically for laying water repellent concrete blocks (or Tech-Dry Blocks) made with the addition of Tech-Dry Block Emulsion. It may also be used as a water-resistant admixture for other cement/sand mixtures such as cement/sand renders or concrete masonry.

Some of the important features of **Techdryad Mortar Additive** include:

- Non-toxic water-based formulation.
- Improves workability of cement/sand mortars.
- Increased adhesion of cement/sand mortar.
- Reduces water penetration, efflorescence and water-borne staining.
- Does not significantly change vapour permeability of cement/sand mortars.
- Easy to use and cost effective.

As cement/sand mortars vary significantly, a test **MUST** be carried out prior to application to find out the suitability of this product for the purpose.





BAINES MASONRY

Cleaning & Maintenance Guide

When laying bricks or blocks, ensure that each piece is placed as neatly as possible. A cleaner wall will make future cleaning efforts much simpler. Keep in mind that the colour of the mortar and the type of joint you choose will affect how tidy the wall remains during the laying process.

Throughout the day of laying, periodically clean your work area using a sponge or a soft-bristled broom or nylon brush. If any mortar stains persist, spot clean them the following day with a brush and fresh water.

At the end of each day of laying, it is essential to protect any newly laid brick or blockwork from wet weather, especially during the winter months. Ensure that freshly laid brick, blockwork, or core-filled blocks do not encounter water. Remember that cement-based mortar and core-filled concrete require a curing period of 28 days. If these materials become wet during the curing phase, they may become stained with efflorescence or calcium carbonate. To safeguard your new work, cover the top of the wall with corflute or plastic. This method is straightforward yet effective. Additionally, when working with core-filled coloured block walls, incorporate TechDryad mortar additive to achieve water-repellent properties in the mortar.

Additional Cleaning If Required

High Pressure Clean

Once the mortar has cured for a minimum of 7 days, you may proceed to clean the bricks using high-pressure water. Select a 15-20 degree nozzle, and avoid using a dirt blaster nozzle. To minimise the impact on the mortar joints, angle the nozzle at 45 degrees downward along the wall. Ensure that the water pressure does not exceed 3000 psi. Always conduct a test area prior to starting the cleaning process.



GuardIT Green Acid Cleaning

If you find that chemical cleaning is necessary, we recommend using GuardIT Green Acid Replacement, which is stocked by Baines Masonry. This product is an environmentally friendly alternative to traditional acids. Use GuardIT Green Acid as a safe substitute for harsh acids like Hydrochloric Acid when removing cement residue.

Suggested Cleaning Method:

- Cleaning should be done approximately 7 days after laying
- Cleaning should be done in workable panels or sections of walls
- Wet wall down with hose or high-pressure water cleaner (15 degrees nozzle, max 3000 psi)
- Apply GuardIT Green Acid diluted with water to maximum of 10:1 using a garden pressure sprayer (or similar), spraying evenly over wall working down from top to bottom of wall
- After 1-2 minutes wash off with hose or high pressure cleaner working down from top to bottom of wall - 15 Litres of GuardIT Green Acid will clean approximately 7,000 bricks / 140 m²

Chemical Cleaning (eg. Hydrochloric Acid)

Please remember that improper use of acids can result in lasting damage to brick and block surfaces, leading to issue like blotchiness or discoloration. Avoid using strongly mixed acids and scrubbing the walls. Reserve acid use as a last resort. When using hydrochloric acid, ensure it is not mixed stronger than a ratio of 20:1.

For proper guidance, follow the acid cleaning techniques outlined by the CMAA as detailed below.

Stain Specific Cleaning

Stain specific or detailed cleaning methods for bricks and blocks is available from Concrete Masonry Association of Australia

www.cmaa.com.au or

www.bainesmasonry.com.au



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