

# TECHNICAL INFORMATION SHEET

## Application & construction

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### **FIREBORN GLAZED UNITS – HANDLING & LAYING GUIDELINES**

Fireborn Glazed Clay units leave the factory quality checked and are protectively packaged. To minimise damage on site, the following guidelines are strongly recommended.

- Careful handling on site of glazed units is imperative.
- Do not allow glazed units to come into direct contact with the ground to avoid contamination.
- Do not stack pallets of glazed units.
- Keep units dry. Cover with waterproof sheeting but allow air to circulate.
- Keep products in original packaging for as long as possible.
- Do not stack individual units.
- Do not use the edge of the trowel for levelling

During laying –care must be taken when stacking individual units & do not use the edge of the trowel for levelling to minimise chipping.

Weep holes, vents and cavity trays should be incorporated in accordance with PD6697, these are critical to glazed brick walls as the impervious finish does not permit the face of the brick to breathe.

As with all glazed ceramic products, subtle colour variations are to be expected therefore the units should be blended from several pallets during construction.

#### **CUTTING & DRILLING**

- Site cutting of glazed products is not recommended. Special sizes need to be ordered and cut before glazing.
- When drilling use a low speed, water fed, segmented diamond drill bit. Keep water on area whilst drilling. Do not allow drill bit to become overheated.

**CAUTION MUST BE TAKEN WHEN HANDLING FIRED CLAY MATERIAL WHEN THE SURFACE HAS BEEN BROKEN RESULTING IN SHARP EDGES. ALWAYS WEAR PROTECTIVE GLOVES, EYEWEAR AND CLOTHING WHEN CUTTING**

#### **LAYING**

**Fireborn Clay units should be used in accordance with BS EN 1996 & PD6697.**

These units are intended to be laid with the perforations vertical for maximum unit strength and bond strength with mortar. Compressive strength will be much reduced if the perforations are laid horizontally. An embossed arrow on the reverse of the units should be pointing up.

Setting out should be to face dimensions as there may be a taper to the rear affecting the joint width.

Fireborn blocks are manufactured to a size tolerance of  $\pm 3\text{mm}$ . The first course of blocks should initially be set out dry so vertical joints can be evened out. The subsequent courses can then be correctly centred, either half or stack bond, on the joint/block below.

The larger sizes are relatively heavy (4 ½ brick equivalent) and laying them is a two handed operation. Dependant on the mortar characteristics and weather conditions there will obviously be restrictions in the number of courses that can be laid in one day as with normal bricks. It should normally be possible to lay between 6 and 8 courses in one lift, however, incorporating a proprietary masonry support system such as Brikmat<sup>®</sup> will prevent mortar being squeezed out of the joints by the weight of the subsequent courses and can significantly increase the amount of courses that can be laid in a day.

**Mortar - Normally a designation (ii) mortar mix (1: ½ : 4 ½, cement lime sand or equivalent) will be the most appropriate mixed to a relatively stiff consistency bearing in mind the weight of the larger units.**

Use full mortar beds and a nominal 10mm joint thickness, fully filling perpend.

**Do not use a sealer on mortar joints or waterproofing agents in the mortar.**

**Joint Finish** – Curved recessed (bucket handle) or flush - normally flush. Mortar must cover unglazed bed face- white cement is often used.

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**Movement joints** – at normal recommended spacing for clay units, please ask for Design Advice. Where bed-joint reinforcement is used our experience has found that joint spacing may be slightly increased.

**Wall tie spacing** – at normal centres as per PD6697.

**Stack bonding** – Where stack bonding is employed, stainless steel ladder type bed joint reinforcement should be used to ensure adequate load distribution and bonding and be laid in accordance with manufacturers instructions. Care in setting out is required in stack-bonded situations to ensure uniformity of vertical joints.

A flattened wire section will be needed to ensure compatibility with wall ties. For further advice please contact Ibstock or Ancon Building Products.

### CLEANING

Use a wooden tool to remove any lumps of mortar from the glazed surfaces. With gloss products, mortar splashes may be removed immediately, after jointing, surfaces should be polished with a soft cloth to avoid the need for any further cleaning.

If there is still a bloom on the glazed surface, wash the area with very dilute acid-based cleaner, then rinse. This should remove the residue. (Trial and error may be needed to determine an effective mix.)

For matt-glazed units, follow the recommendations for Standard Fireborn units

For further information or advice regarding this topic please contact Ibstock's Design & Technical Helpline on **0844 800 4576** or email [technical@ibstock.co.uk](mailto:technical@ibstock.co.uk)

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