

**SECTION 04 05 31  
MASONRY TUCK POINTING**

**PART 1 - GENERAL****1.1 DESCRIPTION**

This section specifies requirements for tuck pointing of existing masonry and stone work.

**1.2 RELATED WORK**

Mortars: Section 04 05 13, MASONRY MORTARING.

**1.3 APPLICABLE PUBLICATIONS**

- A. Publications listed below form a part of this specification to extent referenced. Publications are referenced in the text by basic designation only.
- B. American Society for Testing and Materials (ASTM):
  - C67-07.....Brick and Structural Clay Tile, Sampling and Testing
  - C216-07.....Facing Brick (Solid Masonry Units Made From Clay or Shale)
  - C270-07.....Mortar for Unit Masonry
- C. International Masonry Institute: Recommended Practices and Guide Specifications for Cold Weather Masonry Construction.

**PART 2 - PRODUCTS****2.1 TUCK POINTING MORTAR**

As per appendix X3 of ASTM C270.

**2.2 REPLACEMENT MASONRY UNITS**

- A. Face Brick:
  - 1. ASTM C216, Grade SW, Type FBS. Brick shall be classified slightly efflorescent or better when tested in accordance with ASTM C67.
  - 2. Face brick shall match facing brick of the existing building(s) that is being tuck pointed.
- B. Other Units to match existing.

**PART 3 - EXECUTION****3.1 CUT OUT OF EXISTING MORTAR JOINTS**

- A. Cut out existing mortar joints (both bed and head joints) and remove by means of a toothing chisel or a special pointer's grinder, to a uniform depth of to 3/4-inch, or until sound mortar is reached. Take care to not damage edges of existing masonry units to remain.

- B. Remove dust and debris from the joints by brushing, blowing with air or rinsing with water. Do not rinse when temperature is below freezing.

### **3.2 JOB CONDITIONS**

- A. Protection: Protect newly pointed joints from rain, until pointed joints are sufficiently hard enough to prevent damage.
- B. Cold Weather Protection:
  - 1. Tuck pointing may be performed in freezing weather when methods of protection are utilized.
  - 2. Comply with applicable sections of "Recommended Practices for Cold Weather Construction" as published by International Masonry Industry All Weather Council.
  - 3. Existing surfaces at temperatures to prevent mortar from freezing or causing other damage to mortar.

### **3.3 INSTALLATION OF TUCK POINTING MORTAR**

- A. Immediately prior to application of mortar, dampen joints to be tuck pointed. Prior to application of pointing mortar, allow masonry units to absorb surface water.
- B. Tightly pack mortar into joints in thin layers, approximately 1/4-inch thick maximum.
- C. Allow layer to become "thumbprint hard" before applying next layer.
- D. Pack final layer flush with surfaces of masonry units. When mortar becomes "thumbprint hard", tool joints.

### **3.4 TOOLING OF JOINTS**

- A. Tool joints with a jointing tool to produce a smooth, compacted, concaved joint.

### **3.5 REPLACEMENT OF MASONRY UNITS**

- A. Cut out mortar joints surrounding masonry units that are to be removed and replaced.
  - 1. Units removed may be broken and removed, providing surrounding units to remain are not damaged.
  - 2. Once the units are removed, carefully chisel out the old mortar and remove dust and debris.
  - 3. If units are located in exterior wythe of a cavity or veneer wall, exercise care to prevent debris falling into cavity.
- B. Dampen surfaces of the surrounding units before new units are placed.
  - 1. Allow existing masonry to absorb surface moisture prior to starting installation of the new replacement units.

2. Butter contact surfaces of existing masonry and new replacement masonry units with mortar.
3. Center replacement masonry units in opening and press into position.
4. Remove excess mortar with a trowel.
5. Point around replacement masonry units to ensure full head and bed joints.
6. When mortar becomes "thumbprint hard", tool joints.

### 3.6 CLEANING

- A. Clean exposed masonry surfaces on completion.
- B. Remove mortar droppings and other foreign substances from wall surfaces.
- C. First wet surfaces with clean water, then wash down with a solution of soapless detergent specially prepared for cleaning brick.
- D. Brush with stiff fiber brushes while washing, and immediately thereafter hose down with clean water.
- E. Free clean surfaces from traces of detergent, foreign streaks or stains. Protect materials during cleaning operations including adjoining construction.
- F. Use of muratic acid for cleaning is prohibited.

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