

**SECTION 04 05 31**  
**MASONRY TUCK POINTING**

**PART 1 - GENERAL**

**1.1 DESCRIPTION**

This section specifies requirements for tuck pointing of existing masonry.

**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 19 mm (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 6 mm (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.
- B. Tool joints in patch work with a jointing tool to match the existing surrounding joints.

### **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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