



Instructions and tips for using Europoint pointing mortar

1. The ratio of water to dry mortar mix is 4.25 – 4.5 litres per 25Kg bag. In practice we normally pour clean water into a standard bucket to about 2.5 – 3 inches deep. The bucket should be free of loose material. Add the dry mortar (approx half a bag) and mix with a paddle or whisk.
2. Make sure the mix is thorough and that the mortar is consistent and creamy. Adjust the content by adding small amounts of water or more powder as required.
3. The mixture should form peaks but should not be so stiff that you cannot turn it easily with a trowel or scoop.
4. The pointing bag and tip can be prepared for use by trimming approx 1cm off the "pointed" end, pushing the metal tip into place and then taping the tip and the end of the bag together. This is not essential but reduces the likelihood of the tip being pushed back into the bag in use. If the joints you need to point are at all narrow, it is also useful to squeeze the metal tip with pliers or a vice so that the hole is more oval than round. This gives you the option of turning the bag and tip to adjust the size of the bead of mortar being applied. Fold the top of the bag down 4 or 5 inches.
5. Scoop some mortar into the bag up to about half full. At this point you can assess the mixture. It should be just dropping out of the bottom of the bag in blobs. If it is pouring out it is too wet and if it isn't coming out at all it may be too dry. If you need to adjust the mix, return what is in the bag to the bucket.
6. Small amounts of extra powder or water can make quite a difference so make adjustments incrementally.
7. Once the correct consistency is achieved at, scoop the mortar into the bag. The full part of the bag should be 10-12 inches. Twist the end of the bag tight to provide consistent pressure to the contents.
8. Hold the bag lightly in your left hand and twist the end with your right hand (assuming you are right handed). The pressure from the twist will eject mortar into the joint to be filled. Try to maintain consistent pressure and avoid squeezing the middle of the bag if possible.
9. Move the tip along the joint at a steady speed according to the flow of mortar. Joints should be filled to just overflowing. Carefully watch what you are doing and if gaps appear fill them in as you go.
10. You can fill either perps or beds first. There are benefits to both ways but see what works for you.
11. Try to avoid letting the tip drag along the brick as if it catches a crease or similar the bag and the bead of mortar are liable to be diverted onto the face of the brick.
12. Once you have emptied the bag, refill and continue.
13. The time it takes for the mortar to go off varies with the brick type, joint depth and prevailing conditions. Keep checking the mortar which was applied first. Once you can put a finger imprint in the drying mortar without any residue sticking to your finger, it is about ready to strike off with a pointing iron or piece of hose etc.
14. Tool the joints beds first, perps second. This helps to avoid smudging the mortar on to the brick face. The use of the tool packs the mortar into the joint and the excess should fall away. If the surface of the struck joint looks dragged or tears up, the mortar is still too wet and should be left longer.
15. When the joints have been tooled, check to make sure that all the beds and perps are done then leave it to dry a while longer until any snots at the edge of the brick faces can be brushed off with a soft brush without marking the joints or smearing any excess on to the bricks.
16. Any spots of mortar on the faces of the bricks are best left until they are fairly dry before being removed with the edge of a trowel or the brush.
17. Any unsightly marks or stains should be removed after the mortar is cured using a stiff brush and clean water. If necessary a detergent can be added to the water to assist. Brick acid can be used as a last resort but this needs to be hosed off the wall as fast as it is put on or further smearing and staining tends to be the result.
18. This is a sand and cement based mortar so it should only be applied in conditions of 4°C and rising. Finished work should be protected from frost and rain.
19. In excessively warm or windy conditions where the mortar might cure too quickly, the bricks can be wetted with a spray mister to slow the curing down.
20. Finally, clean all tools and buckets used. The pointing bag can be washed out and stood up to dry before being reused.

