



Wienerberger Technical Guidance

LAYING OF FROGGED BRICKS

Soft mud moulded bricks are formed when a clot of clay coated with sand is thrown, by hand or machine, into a mould. The bottom of the mould is formed by a stock and a kicker may be placed on the stock to form a frog (the indent formed in the bed of the brick). This facilitates filling the moulds and demoulding the unfired bricks.



Bricks with frogs should generally be laid with the frog uppermost, as this ensures that a full bed of mortar is utilised, creating equal transmission of loading forces through the brickwork outer skin. The load is evenly distributed throughout the wall by filling the frogs with mortar when the frog is uppermost - it is time consuming to lay bricks with frogs down and filled, and if not done correctly, can lead to the load being concentrated at the edges of the brick. This could result in cracking, spalling and even collapse of the brickwork. It is therefore only practicable to construct parts of the wall frog down with limited numbers. Even where superimposed loads are not critical, workmanship is a key element. A lack of sufficient and appropriate bedding mortar can lead to localised weakness in the construction.

Effective sound insulation between adjacent buildings depends largely on the density of the wall between them. Heavier walls contribute to better sound insulation and this may be a good reason for constructing walls frog up and filled with mortar.

Consideration should also be given to the aesthetic effect of laying bricks frog down. Many soft mud products have characteristic creasing on the fair face and when laid with the frog up, the brick is referred to as 'smiling'. If the brick is laid frog down, it is then 'frowning' and may be visually unacceptable.

The recommendation regarding laying bricks frog upper most is also advocated in BS 8000:Part 3 'Workmanship on Building Sites'.

