



BRICK AND STONE : GLOSSARY OF TERMS

Admixtures

All materials--other than Portland cement, water and aggregates-- added to concrete, mortar, or grout, immediately before or during mixing.

Bed Joint

The horizontal layer of mortar on which a masonry unit is laid.

Block

A concrete masonry unit made with fine aggregate and cement that is shaped in a mold. Any variety of shaped, light-weight, or standard-weight masonry units.

Brick Set

A wide-blade chisel used for cutting bricks and concrete blocks.

Butt Joint

When two separate boards have their edges placed against each other. This type of joint is not the strongest but compared to other types of joints, it is easy to fit.

Buttered

The small end of a brick that has quantity or mortar placed onto it (e.g., the act of buttering a brick's end with mortar).

Caulk

To seal up crevices with some flexible material.

Cement

A grey powder made from a mixture of lime and clay, commonly mixed with water and sand to make mortar (bonding agent). It can also be mixed with water, sand and gravel to make concrete.

Coloring Agent

Colored aggregates or mineral oxides ground finer than cement.

Concrete

A strong building material composed of sand, gravel, cement and water.

Control Joint

Grooves made on a concrete floor that allow the concrete to crack in a designated spot instead of randomly.

Coping

A brick, block, stone, or concrete cap placed at the top of a masonry wall to prevent moisture from falling directly on it and weakening the wall.

Dry Mixture

A mixture of concrete with severely restricted water content.

Efflorescence

A powdery stain, usually white, on the surface of or between masonry units. It is caused by the leaching of soluble salts to the surface.

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Expansion Joint

A material placed within or a scoring of concrete that allows it to expand without cracking.

Exposed Aggregate

A concrete finish achieved by embedding aggregate into the surface, allowing the concrete to set up partially, then hosing down and brushing away the concrete covering the top portion of the aggregate.

Face Brick

A type of brick made specifically for covering (veneering) walls.

Finger Joint

Interlocking two shorter pieces of wood end-to-end, creating a longer piece of dimensional lumber or molding. It's often used in jambs, casings and is normally painted (instead of stained).

Flashing

The waterproof covering placed at certain points in brick masonry to hold water or to direct any moisture outside the wall.

Float

A wooden tool used to finish a concrete surface.

Grout

A mixture of cement, sand and water to fill masonry or ceramic cracks or crevices.

Joint

Any place where two or more edges or surfaces meet.

Jointer

A tool used for making grooves or control joints in concrete surfaces to control cracking.

Mortar

A mixture of cement or lime, sand and water that hardens in place and is used for bonding bricks and stone.

Mortise

A part of a joint that is made by cutting into a board, plank, or timber--usually edgewise-- to receive the tenon (or tongue) of another board, plank, or timber to form the mortise and tenon joint.

Masonry

A wall that is made up of stone, brick, concrete, hollow-tile, concrete block, or other types of building materials or units normally bonded together with mortar.

Mastic

A protective coating (as for thermal insulation or waterproofing) used as cement and (as for setting tile) comes as a pasty material.

Pavers

Bricks in numerous sizes and shapes that are used in constructing sidewalks, patios and driveways.

Portland Cement

A number of types of cement with unique characteristics manufactured from limestone and mixed with shale or clay.

Precast Concrete

Any concrete member that is cast at a place other than its location of final use.

Retaining Wall

A wall that is constructed to hold soil in place.

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Running Bond

This is the same as common bond, with continuous horizontal joints, but the vertical joints are offset or in line.

Screed

A long, very straight board used for striking off concrete.

Soldier

A brick laid on its ends so that its longest dimension is parallel to the vertical axis of the face of the wall.

Striking Off

The process of removing excess concrete to a level needed.

Ties

A wire, rod, or snap that is used to hold wall forms at a specific separation.

Trowel

A steel tool with a flat surface that causes a concrete surface to become very smooth.

Tuck-Pointing

The process of refilling old joints with new mortar.

Veneer

A layer of bricks or stones that serve as a facing.

Weep Holes

The openings made in mortar joints that facilitate drainage of built-up moisture.

Wire Mesh

Any of a variety of bonded wire, formed into a mat and used to reinforce slabs of concrete.

Workability

The ease or difficulty in placing and consolidating concrete.

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