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Advice Sheet 9 Specification Advice for Block Effect

Before you specify the Block effect for your wall, you may want to consider the following questions:

- What is the floor to ceiling height of the wall and what is the width of the wall?
- What type of bond effect do you want to see?
- What type of joint do you want to see?
- What size do you want each block to be?
- What colour and texture do you want the mortar lines to appear in?
- What colour and texture do you want the blocks to appear in?

1 The Floor to Ceiling Height / Width of Wall

The responsibility for setting out the design of the block effect rests with the specifier. To set out a block effect wall you will need to firstly measure the floor to ceiling height and width of the wall. This will give you the dimensions into which the blocks will fit. Remember that if you are looking at multiple walls, you will need measurements for each. Generally speaking the vertical measurement is most critical.

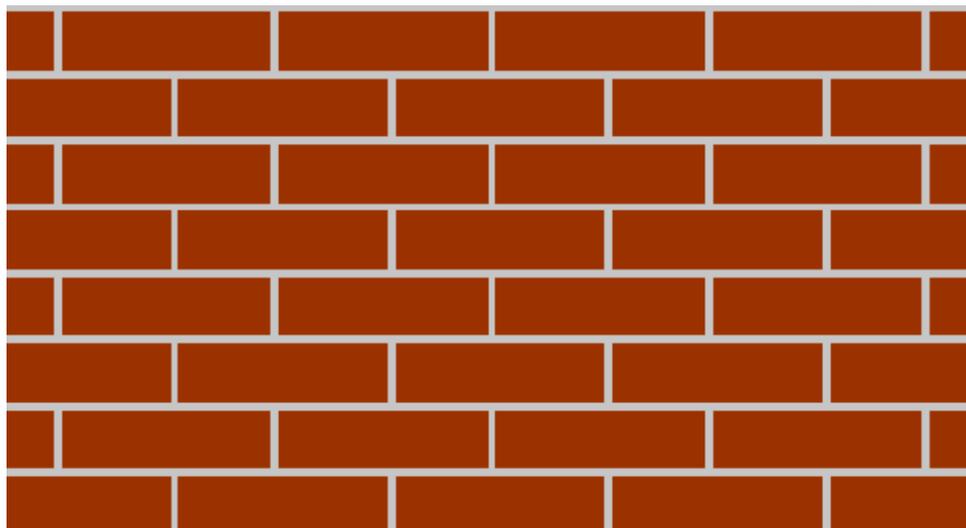
2 Choosing the Correct Block Bond Type

Historically speaking there are numerous bond types. Each bond type has its own appearance hence it is important to establish which technique will look best in the environment you are designing. You may want to consider picking up on key themes such as:

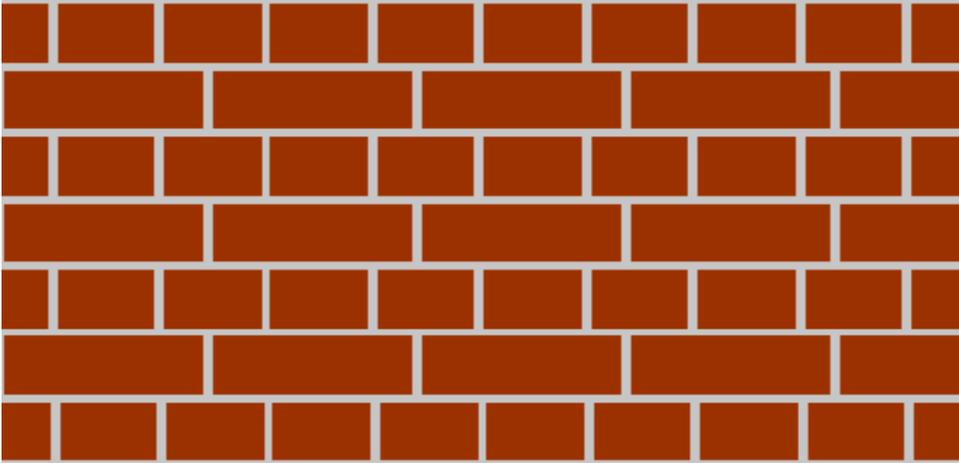
- Is there a bond type on the outside of the building that you wish to replicate inside?
- Will the flooring bond type clash with the proposed bond type for the walls?
- Do you want the bond type to make the room look tall, wide, thin, or narrow?
- Will any signage be covering the wall and do you want it to fit within or over the bond type?

Here are some examples of brick bonds which Armourcoat can replicate:

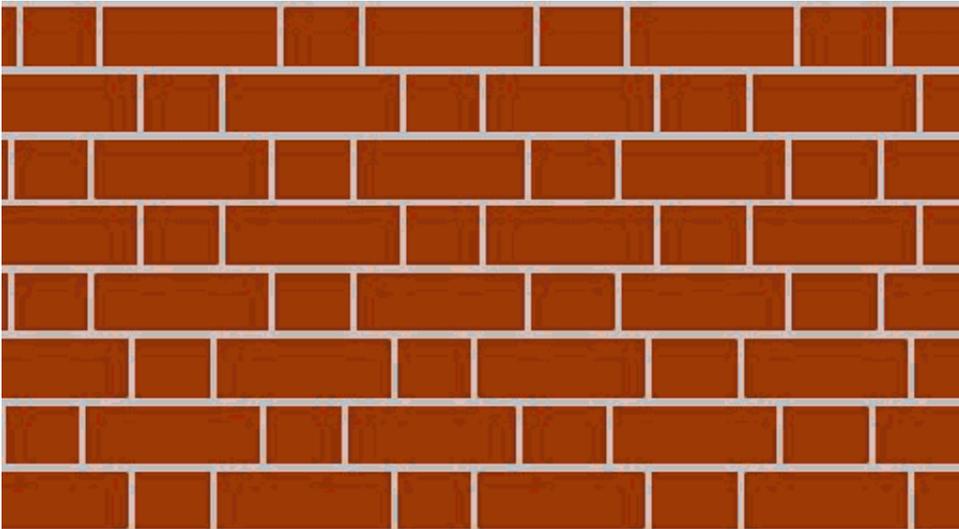
Stretcher bond (also known as running bond or monotonous stretcher bond) is the most common bond in modern times. Entirely comprised of stretcher bricks, set in rows (or "courses") that are offset by half a brick:



English bond is made up of alternating courses of stretchers and headers:



Flemish Bond is created by alternately laying headers and stretchers in a single course. The next course is laid so that a header lies in the middle of the stretcher in the course below:



3 Choosing the joint type

Armourcoat are able to achieve several different joint types. The cost of each joint type varies depending on the setting out required onsite. They are as follows:

- Butted block effect – where each block appears to sit on top and aside adjoining blocks without a gap between. See the image below for an example:



- V-jointed butted block effect – this is the same as the butted block effect but each joint line is accentuated by beveling a thin V-joint into the surface.
- 3mm open mortar line effect – where the mortar line (horizontal and vertical) between adjoining blocks is set at a consistent gap of 3mm. See image below for an example:



- 6mm open mortar line effect – where the mortar line (horizontal and vertical) between adjoining blocks is set at a consistent gap of 6mm.
- 10mm open mortar line effect – where the mortar line (horizontal and vertical) between adjoining blocks is set at a consistent gap of 10mm.

4 Size of blocks

Now that you have the dimensions of the wall(s), chosen bond type, and the joint type, you now need to carefully consider the size of block to specify. The advantage of using polished plaster is that the block size can be amended to any size you require so that it will fit into the dimensions of the wall(s). We recommend keeping consistent block dimensions throughout a space to avoid conflicting horizontal course lines at either internal or external corners. If you are specifying either a 3mm, 5mm, or 10mm open mortar line effect, you will need to consider whether the extra mortar line width will affect the setting out of the blocks. We recommend that you draw a scaled elevation of the wall with all dimensions set out accurately to check that the effect looks visually correct in the wall dimensions you have measured.

5 Colour and texture of the mortar lines

If you are specifying either a 3mm, 5mm, or 10mm open mortar line effect, you will need to consider the colour and texture of the mortar line. The mortar line will appear recessed by the thickness of the polished plaster which is typically between 0.8 – 2.0mm. You can specify one of the following finishes for the mortar line:

- A white keycoat.
- A coloured keycoat (normally coloured with the same pigments used for Armourcoat polished plaster products).

6 Colour and texture of the blocks

There are various finishes that you can specify for the blocks depending on the look that you want to achieve. The following finishes can be specified for the blocks:

1. Pitted
2. Travertine
3. Dragged
4. Armuralia
5. Smooth
6. Spatulata

If you are looking to specify one of the above finishes, please contact specsales@armourcoat.co.uk or the Specification Sales Department on +44 (0) 1732 467 993 to order a full colour swatch and samples.

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