

## ADVICE SHEET FOR CAST STONE PRODUCTS

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### **STORAGE**

All units are delivered banded onto wooden pallets with protective packaging between units and either shrink wrapping or polythene cover sheet providing full weather protection. The shrink wrapping or polythene cover should normally be kept in place until the units are to be used. However, we advise that the wrapping be removed upon receipt during the relatively hot months of July and August.

All components should be handled with extreme care and pallets stored on firm, level ground, separate from all other building work. Pallets must not be stacked on top of each other as this could result in damage to the lower units.

### **HANDLING**

When handling or re-palletising components must be packed to ensure surfaces do not come into contact. Units must be supported by two bearer positioned approximately 25% in from each end.

All components must be handled in the appropriate way in which to minimise any damage and in accordance with the Health & Safety Executive recommendations. They must not be subjected to undue stresses and strains as this could lead to invisible hairline cracks. Unprotected ropes and chains must not be used for lifting into position.

### **FIXING ADVICE**

Installation of all architectural dressings should be in accordance with BS 5628 Part 3; 2005, or as detailed on our drawings.

### **JOINTING AND BEDDING**

Stressline architectural dressings are designed to be fixed with nominal joints between units. Dowel holes should be filled with an epoxy grout. A mortar composed of 6 parts washed sand, 1 part Portland cement and 1 part hydrated lime (by volume) is recommended for horizontal and vertical joints. Alternatively a proprietary mortar from an approved ready mix supplier may be used. In normal circumstances a mortar mix no stronger than 1:1:6 cement/lime/sand and not weaker than 1:2:9 should be used. For colour recommendation please consult mortar manufacturers' tables. It is recommended that trial mixes should be used in sample panels prior to commencement of construction.

### **HEADS**

Over openings in external cavity wall construction a suitable stepped cavity tray with stop ends should be provided (projecting a minimum of 150 mm beyond each side of the opening) to direct water outwards, via weepholes, where appropriate. Additional cavity trays should be provided where label moulds are used.

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## **CILLS**

One piece should be bedded with mortar only below the ends or stoolings, to prevent fracture of the cill in the event of thermal movement and differential settlement. The open joint should be pointed with mortar on completion. Cills or subcills should be provided with D.P.C. for the full length and width of the cill bed, turned vertically upwards to cover the interior side of the cill as far as the window board or use a cavity tray with stop ends.

## **POINTING AND REPAIR**

Carefully rake out exposed joints to a depth of 7 – 10mm as work proceeds, then dust, lightly wet and neatly point in a continuous operation as scaffolding is taken down. Before pointing, suitable masking tape should be fixed to either side of the joint to protect stone from mortar stains. We recommend for both pointing and repair that trials are carried out on samples to confirm colour and material suitability prior to general application.

## **PROTECTION**

Once in position components should be protected as far as possible from mortar spillages and accidental damage from following trades. Projecting features, cills in particular, must be protected, preferably with a timber cover. Keep stonework clean during construction and until practical completion. Ensure that no mortar encroaches on face when laying. Turn back scaffolding boards at night and during heavy rain.

## **CLEANING**

No attempt at cleaning the cast stonework should be made without prior consultation with the manufacturer as this may lead to permanent and irreparable damage.