

Method Statement – tufftop jointing mortar

1 Preparation

The working temperature range of **tuffbau tufftop** is between 2°C and 30°C. Jointing work must not be carried out in ambient temperatures of less than 2°C and night frosts must be guarded against. The area to be jointed should be thoroughly clean and free of all debris before jointing begins. The paving surface should be **very thoroughly wetted** and **must be kept wet** until jointing has been completed. This will help prevent residual staining, and help the slurry slide more easily into the joints.

2 Mixing

Pour exactly 4 litres of water into an empty plastic dustbin or large mixing bucket. (A 25 kg bag of **tufftop** will typically require 4 litres of water depending on air temperature and dampness, so slight adjustments in following batches may be needed to pinpoint the consistency). Pour all 25kgs of **tufftop** into the water and mix using a cordless drill with a spiral mixing paddle, or twin paddle mixer. Adding the water first helps avoid lumps, inconsistency, and a crust of unmixed material forming at the bottom edge of the bucket.

3 Applying

Immediately after mixing is completed, tip and spread the mortar onto the paving surface, pushing and spreading it with a soft rubber squeegee so it flows into the joints. Thoroughly wet paving will provide lubrication that helps the mortar run properly into the joints, prevent staining, and make the surface easier to clean. Apply the fresh mortar without delay. Production of mortar should be continuous, so that further mixes can be applied and spread seamlessly as the job progresses

A quantity of the mortar should always be maintained at the surface, offering a constant source to top up filled joints which may have slumped following initial placement. When the joints are full and will accept no more **tufftop**, a soft rubber-bladed squeegee should be used to remove as much excess mortar as possible from the surface.

4 Cleaning

Keep the surface moist using a soft hose spray or mist of water. By doing this carefully, and avoiding a direct spray into the newly-filled joints, it is possible, using the squeegee, or a powered continuous sponge belt cleaning machine, to wipe away the thin film of mortar remaining on the surface completely. Providing the surface is kept moist with a soft spray or mist, a short delay between jointing and cleaning will cause no ill-effect. Proper use of water is the key to success.

When the **tufftop** has started to harden slightly, the surface can be thoroughly cleaned with a brush and copious amounts of water to remove all traces of mortar. Cleaning must be carried out very thoroughly and no mortar must be allowed to remain on the surface of the paving. For larger areas, we would recommend the use of a powered cleaning sponge. Though this can save a great deal of time, it is not essential for good results.

