

Rigid and permeable jointing mortar

Laying

tuffbed 2-pack bedding mortar should not be too wet; just wet enough to be cohesive (ball in hand test).

Lay on tuffbed 2-pack bedding mortar (tuffbed 2-pack / tuffgrit ratio 1:4) using tuffbond priming mortar brush applied to the underside of the paving units.

Refer to separate tuffbed 2-pack method statement.

Jointing

Mix 1 parts 25kg tuffgrit aggregate blend with 1 8kg sack of tuffflow. Mix without the addition of any water until all aggregate particles are coated with the tuffflow binder. Add a 1 litre of water while continuing to mix. Too much water will cause the mortar to be non-permeable when placed.

Prior to jointing, wet the area of paving so that the pavers absorb as much water as possible. Prior to applying the jointing mortar remove any excess water with a soft rubber squeegee. Ensure the paving is damp but without standing water on the surface.

Place the jointing mortar on the surface of the paving. Use a squeegee or a stiff broom to move the mortar over the surface so that it falls in to the joints. Remove excess mortar from the surface. Any spent mortar, with excessive fines or loose aggregate, should be disposed of.

Do not allow the mortar to dry on the surface of the paving.

Immediately clean the surface of the paving. For small areas a "Washboy" hand held sponge float is recommended. For larger areas a "Pergo" continuous powered sponge belt is essential.

During curing it might be necessary to lightly mist the surface of the paving to prevent the jointing mortar from prematurely drying out through evaporation which could lead to weaker material at the surface of the joint.

Misting is most likely to be required in hot, sunny or windy conditions.

When misting, care should be taken not to over water the joints as this could affect permeability.

The misting process can be repeated if the joint continues to dry out during the first hour of curing.



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Initial and ongoing maintenance

Small patches of jointing that have closed up are not necessarily a problem, this is quite normal. They are caused by excess water during either mixing or cleaning. It is likely that there will be more detriment in structural damage done by removing and re-jointing than any gain in permeability. As long as the patches are few, small and spread apart water will simply run off to adjacent permeable joints. This should have been allowed for in the overall permeability calculations at the design stage when using published flow rates.

Joints that have recessed or that have been damaged can be easily topped up. They are caused by spent jointing mortar having been applied to the joints instead of being removed during the jointing process. A small amount of tuffflow permeable jointing mortar can be mixed by hand with a twin paddle mixer. The patch of paving including the joints must be damp. The jointing mortar is applied to the joint with a trowel and excess material removed. The surface of the paving is cleaned using a "Washboy" sponge float.

Periodic maintenance can be carried out by lightly pressure washing the surface of the paving and joints to remove debris, dirt and detritus that could reduce permeability. A domestic pressure washer or equivalent low pressure washer is recommended. This is recommended twice each year (Spring / Autumn).

