

Elephant Brick Co



INSTALLATION AND CARE GUIDE

COTTAGE RED RECLAIMED BRICK



WELCOME

Thankyou for choosing Cottage Red reclaimed bricks.

This guide provides advice on laying, jointing, cleaning and ongoing care to help achieve a beautiful and durable finish.

Following these recommendations will ensure your brickwork ages gracefully and retains its timeless character for years to come.

Reclaimed bricks reduce embodied carbon and support a more sustainable built environment.

0.7 Kg CO2 Saved

for every brick reused instead of made new*.



*Source: Think Brick Australia

DID YOU KNOW?



No two reclaimed bricks are exactly alike. Every brick carries the marks of its previous life, creating a truly one-of-a-kind finish.

Residual mortar is normal | Weathered patina and colour variation | Chips and imperfections | Tumbled edges and textures

1. LAYING GUIDE - OVERVIEW

Careful preparation and good workmanship are the key to a successful outcome. The following guidelines are recommended for all Jerusalem White brickwork.

Flush or 1mm raked joint then sponged | Blend from multiple pallets | Do not lay in extreme heat or cold
Dry brushing is the best cleaning technique | Sensible face selection | Protect unfinished walls from the rain

✓ BEST PRACTISE

- Ensure damp proof course is in place before laying.
- Keep bricks clean and free from excess mortar during construction.
- Use clean water for mixing mortar and for cleaning.
- Cleaning is best done by dry brushing brick work once the mortar is no longer tacky but still workable.
- Allow mortar to fully cure before any further cleaning.

✗ COMMON MISTAKES

- Laying with overly wet or dry bricks.
- Deep raked joints.
- Dry brushing while mortar is still tacky.

2. BLENDING FROM MULTIPLE PALLETS

To achieve a natural, well balanced brick wall with even colour distribution, **always blend bricks from multiple pallets.**

Step 1.

Work across all the pallets at the same time, taking a few bricks from each pallet in rotation. Taking from at least 6 pallets is ideal but the more the better.

Step 2.

Lay bricks from the blended mix, continuing to draw from at least 6 pallets throughout the entire build.

If your build is smaller than 6 pallets, you should draw from all available pallets.

3. MORTAR & JOINTS

We highly recommend either a flush, very shallow (e.g. 1mm) raked joint or half round joint. Do not wet sponge the joints or the brick work as this will smear a thin film of mortar over the brick face. In coastal areas or areas that can experience sub zero temperatures, flush joints are best.

4. CLEANING

PRESSURE WASHING

Low pressure washing is effective for general cleaning

- Maximum pressure 1000 PSI.
- Use a diffuse spray.
- Minimum distance 300mm.
- Keep the spray moving - avoid concentrating in one area.
- Do not acid wash, the white reclamation scumming can be removed with acid washing.

PROFESSIONAL CLEANING RECOMMENDATION

For the best results, we recommend that brick cleaning is carried out by a contractor accredited by Think Brick Australia. Accredited contractors have demonstrated knowledge and experience in the correct cleaning of masonry and use of appropriate products, equipment and technique to protect your brickwork.

Always begin with the least aggressive cleaning method.

✓ CLEANING DO'S

- Pre-wet the wall first.
- Test a small area first.
- Use a fan spray.
- Keep 300mm distance.
- Rinse thoroughly.

✗ COMMON MISTAKES

- Using a concentrated jet.
- Acid washing.
- Cleaning before mortar has cured.
- Holding nozzle too close.
- Too high a pressure.

NOTE: These recommendations are general in nature. Always comply with relevant Australian Standards and seek professional advice when required.