

2. Construction science principles

Worksheet 1: Mortar (learner)

A large range of materials are installed in the built environment. A common material is brick, which is manufactured from clay. This is moulded, textured and fired in a kiln to produce a solid brick. Brickwork is joined using various bonds and a cement-based mortar.

Mortar is mixed in various proportions and has an additive included for workability.

Your task is to research mortar and find out more about this material in order to answer the following questions.

1. What are the typical mortar mixes by ratio?
2. What chemical additive is used to improve the workability of mortar?
3. What natural additive can be added to a mortar to improve workability?
4. Is mortar mixed by weight, volume or ratio?