

APPLICATION & CONSTRUCTION

ECOTERRE® – EARTHBRICK HANDLING AND LAYING GUIDELINES

Ecoterre® is a range of unfired clay bricks intended for most internal non load-bearing applications. Unfired clay bricks have excellent sustainability credentials – low energy input, very low waste and high recyclability and Ecoterre® is manufactured in the UK.

When incorporated into a building they give thermal mass and acoustic insulation, inhibit condensation and regulate the relative humidity of the atmosphere. Ecoterre® is available in two sizes and with a smooth finish if required. The distinctive keyed faces of earth bricks have been developed to provide an excellent bond with plaster or mortar to the surfaces. Please note that perforation patterns may vary.

Ibstock do not recommend using Ecoterre® structurally or to carry the roof load through the wall plates or floor loads through joist hangers.

Face fix ties such as the Ancon SPB can be used if specific alignment is required or built in ties such as Ancon SHX can be used.

THERMAL AND ACOUSTIC CHARACTERISTICS

Ecoterre® has a density of 1940 Kg/m³ and is 105mm in width. This equates to about 1.04 W/m k Conductivity.

105mm of Ecoterre® = $0.105M \div 1.05 W/m k = R\text{-Value } 0.1$

Acoustic properties – Theoretical values suggest a wall thickness of 130mm could see a sound reduction of 46 dB, 240mm thickness a reduction of 53dB.

HANDLING & STORAGE

Only forks should be used to unload the pallets and the movement of unfired clay bricks should be kept to a minimum. Store in a dry location on the original pallet and ventilate to avoid condensation. They should be stacked no more than two packs high.

LAYING

It is recommended that moderately hydraulic lime mortar should be used to lay the bricks. Alternatively, clay mortars are available.

At low level a water resistant brick or block should be used to prevent Ecoterre® becoming saturated from water on the floor or from regular mopping or minor leaks.

FINISHES

Unfired clay brickwork can be finished with a variety of breathable materials including clay and lime plasters, clay boards, some paints and lime washes. Only highly vapour permeable paints should be used.

FIXINGS

Unfired clay bricks will generally only require standard fixings for secondary works such as plumbing, electrics and joinery. Ordinary masonry plugs and screws are suitable for most applications - a list of approved products is available on request or on our website.

For further information on Earth Brick masonry a book called "EARTH MASONRY Design and construction guidelines" by Tom Morton ISBN 978-1-86081-978-0 is a good source of knowledge.

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