Technical Bulletin

Masonry Veneer Systems

Mortar – Types, Definitions and Uses

Mortar, in general, is a mixture of cementitious materials, fine aggregate and water, that also may contain admixtures with Masonry Veneer Systems (MVS), mortars are typically described and used as follows:

SCRATCH COAT MORTAR

When applied to a plaster base (lath), scratch coat mortar serves as the substrate Parex Masonry Veneer Adhesive. For scratch coat applications, the mortar is applied over the plaster base (lath) and scratched prior to set to enhance the bond with Parex Masonry Veneer Adhesive. Scratch coat mortars generally meet one of the following standards with selection based typically on design requirements.

SikaWall Stucco Base

ASTM C 926

ASTM C 270 Type N or Type S (site mixed)

ASTM C1714/C1714M Type N or S (preblended)

Note: Scratch coat applications shall be nominal ½" thick. Masonry veneer can also be installed over SikaWall Stucco Base brown coat or ASTM C 926 brown coat.

SETTING BED MORTAR

Used to adhere thin brick, natural and manufactured stone veneers as well as tile to the substrate, Parex Masonry Veneer Adhesive complies with ANSI 118.4 and 118.15.

POINTING MORTAR

Also referred to as grout or grouting mortar, pointing mortars are used to fill joints between individual veneer units. Various types of pointing mortars are available with selection typically a function of the veneer type, manufacturer recommendations or design considerations.

Note: Some MVS applications are dry stack systems that do not use pointing mortar between the veneer units to create architectural effects, etc.

*Refer to industry documents such as NCMA-MSV Installation Guide (https://ncma.org/resource/msv-installation-guide), Tile Council of North America (www.tcnatile.com), etc. for additional guidance with mortar considerations, code requirements, veneer performance, selection, etc.