

# Factory produced lime:sand mortar for paving

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## General Information

Paving slabs need to be supported continuously throughout their area to prevent rocking and cracking. The sub-base material supporting them should be easy to place and after placement develop sufficient strength to hold the slabs securely in place.

Sand (now known as fine aggregate) on its own may flow easily but when in place does not produce sufficient strength to support heavy traffic. Portland cement added to the sand may give too rigid a sub-base and may crack with continuous trafficking. It also tends to adhere to the undersurface of the paving slabs making re-use difficult.

Factory produced lime:sand for paving as supplied by members of the Mortar Industry Association will give all the required properties for paving mortars. The plasticity of the lime will make placing the paving slabs easy and after laying, the carbon dioxide in the air, or rain water, tends to react slowly with the free lime to produce calcium carbonate to add to the strength. The mortar can be easily cleaned from the undersurface of the paving slabs making re-use easy.

Bricks make excellent pavings. They should be of a special quality and should be properly laid to falls. They should be bedded on lime:sand mortar as for paving slabs. The joints, however, may be filled with a cement:lime:sand mortar. Coloured mortar joints add considerably to the appearance of the paving.

## References

BS 3921	Specification for clay bricks
BS EN 13139	Aggregates for mortar
BS EN 459-1	Building lime. Definitions, specifications and conformity criteria
BS EN 772-1	Methods of test for masonry units. Determination of compressive strength
PD 6682-3	Aggregates for mortar - Guidance on the use of BS EN 13139

British Standards are currently being revised in line with European requirements. The new standards are at varying stages of preparation and/or publication, for a full list of British and new European Standards see the MIA data sheet of technical references.



There is a real danger of contact dermatitis or serious burns if skin comes into contact with wet mortar. Wear suitable protective clothing and eye protection. Where skin contact occurs either directly or through saturated clothing wash immediately with soap and water. For eye contact immediately wash out eyes thoroughly with clean water. If swallowed wash out mouth and drink plenty of water.

The relevant codes of practice, standards and statutory regulations must always be observed.

The information in this data sheet may be freely copied with acknowledgement to the Mortar Industry Association. Current issue numbers of all MIA publications are available from the MIA website.



### **Mortar Industry Association**

Gillingham House 38 - 44 Gillingham Street London SW1V 1HU Tel +44 (0)20 7963 8000 Fax +44 (0)20 7963 8001

Promoting quality factory produced mortar

[www.mortar.org.uk](http://www.mortar.org.uk)