

Producer members

Producers offer mainland UK coverage unless otherwise stated

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www.anglianlime.com

Breedon Southern Ltd 01332 694000

www.breedonaggregates.com

CEMEX UK Materials Ltd 01932 568833

www.cemex.co.uk

Cornish Lime Company 01208 797779

www.cornishlime.co.uk

CPI Mortars Ltd 0845 850 9090

www.euromix.com

Holcim UK 01530 610098

www.holcim.co.uk

Marshalls Mortars & Screeds

0345 3013030

www.marshalls.co.uk

Mortar and Screed Company Ltd

01952 224202

www.mortarandscreed.co.uk

Remix Dry Mortar 01329 231200

www.remixdrymortar.co.uk

RTU 02890 851441

[www.rtu.co.uk \(Belfast\)](http://www.rtu.co.uk (Belfast))

Tarmac 03701 116 116

www.tarmac.com

Tillicoultry Quarries Ltd 01294 557515

www.tillicoultryquarries.com

Watts Mix 01262 675383

www.wattsmix.com

Getting more brickies on the trowel



Concerted efforts are being made to attract and train more bricklayers for the UK construction industry.

A recent government report highlighted the significant shortage of bricklayers, impacting the ability of the industry to meet demand particularly for housing and infrastructure development.

The shortfall in numbers mirrors the overall broader skills gap across the construction industry, caused by an aging workforce, declining apprenticeships and post-Brexit immigration constraints.

In a major move to improve the situation, NHBC has recently announced it is investing £100 million in a national network of twelve new multi-skill training hubs. Initially, these will deliver trained apprentices in key trades including

bricklayers as well as site carpenters and ground workers.

NHBC director of business change, Roger Morton, said:

'The housebuilding industry offers excellent career opportunities. It's a sector that is evolving fast and offers secure, well-paid and progressive career paths. Whether you are just starting out, looking for a career change or returning to work, there is a place for you in this industry.'

Additionally, the Guild of Bricklayers continues its annual skills competition for industry trainees. It runs regional competitions for bricklaying trainees at both senior and junior levels studying at colleges around the country. Winners of both groups go to a national final later this summer. MPA Mortar helps sponsor the competition by supplying factory-produced mortar for all events.

And the national Super Trowel competition goes from strength to strength promoting the skills of the bricklayer. Super Trowel 2025 has regional heats in England, Scotland, Northern Ireland and Wales before the final at Stoneleigh Park, near Coventry in August. The overall challenge for the competitors, say the organisers, is 'Laying the most bricks in record time to perfecting the final details of a wall'. MPA Mortar supports the events by supplying mortar.

Holcim buys Eco-Readymix

Holcim has acquired Eco-Readymix Ltd, producer of mortar and concrete in the north-west.

Eco-Readymix was established in 2004 and has sites in Wrexham and Ellesmere Port with a third site due to open in the Midlands. It produces factory-produced and dry silo mortar and will operate as Holcim UK.



8 Harbord Square.

Bespoke silo mortar from CPI Euromix has been key to the development of 8 Harbord Square in London's Canary Wharf.

The development is a New York-style complex comprising 82 apartments. The architecturally outstanding building draws on the dockland area's heritage, particularly the brick warehouses that once populated its landscape. Featuring 12 storeys with a 1,400 square-feet building footprint, 8 Harbord Square, designed by Karakusevic Carson Architects, includes a wraparound terrace offering spectacular views of London.

CPI EuroMix was selected by contractor, Swift Brickwork, to supply a bespoke mortar to bring the very best from the building's carefully considered brickwork. In all, 8 Harbord Square contains some 13,500

Silos from CPI provide best answer at Canary Wharf

square feet of brickwork across its external façade and internal blockwork. CPI was called upon to manufacture 800 tonnes of dry mortar from its Harlow plant to complement the Ashbury Red bricks and Cinder Coal Black bricks used.

The mortar, CPI's Natural M4, was delivered, ready-mixed and ready to install, in two silos to Canary Wharf. It was then craned into the building site. Silo storage offers several benefits for the end user. The mortar is provided with all-weather protection, ensuring it remains moisture and contamination-free. Thus, it maintains its workability and material waste is significantly reduced. Silos also improve efficiency and minimise material handling time due to their controlled dispensing system.

With bulk storage a route to reduced packaging and delivery costs, silos represent a more sustainable, fiscally-expedient way to utilise mortar to optimal effect.

Completed in December 2024, 8 Harbord Square is a residence for those seeking high-end living. With this environmentally-conscious development, green spaces offering tranquillity and escape are as accessible as broad city vistas, bustling bars, shops and restaurants. CPI EuroMix is proud its dry mortars were selected to uphold the appearance and structure of the brick-built complex that reflects so well on Canary Wharf's past, present and future.

New Learning Text planned

Technical committee of MPA Mortar is working on a further subject in its learning text series which will explain and describe the various steps to be taken when using factory-produced mortars safely and efficiently in both cold- and hot-weather conditions.

Broadly, mortar should not be used when the air temperature drops to 3 degrees Celsius and below while, in hot weather, water evaporation is the biggest factor to be considered.

Additionally, in some cases, extreme weather

conditions may call for the use of special construction techniques or protective measures to ensure that the masonry work is not adversely affected.

Copies of the learning text, 'Mortar cold and hot weather working' will be available via the MPA Mortar website later this year. The series of learning texts already available can be reached at www.mortar.org.uk/technical_information/learning_texts.



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