

# How to lay clinker properly?

1. Differences in colour shades of clinker products are a natural occurrence as a result of the manufacturing process. They make the surface covered by clinker acquire a natural appearance. However, to obtain this effect, you should remember, especially when laying the facade or floor, to mix tiles from different packages. It is also advisable to purchase the goods from the same batch.
2. For mounting the clinker products use the relevant dry set mortars. You should always use the frost-proof mortars outdoors, while those used for the floor tiles should be characterised by flexibility. While laying, you should always keep to the mortar manufacturer's recommendations, in particular taking care that the mortar thickness does not exceed 5 mm.
3. The substrates that tiles and mouldings are laid on should be even, durable and dry. Before cementing, the substrate should be cleaned of non-bearing and adhesion-reducing layers and treated with grounding emulsion. The surface of the substrate prepared for cementing should be smooth. To increase its adhesion, you may scratch it with a sharp tool. Do not put tiles on wet plaster. The binding and settling processes should also be completed in the substrate.
4. If it is necessary for levelling the substrate and shaping the appropriate surface slope, you should use the specified mortars.
5. Dry set mortar must be under the entire surface of the facing. In order to ensure complete adhesion of the facing to the substrate, you are recommended to spread dry set mortar over both the substrate and the bottom of the facing.
6. When laying the products on terraces, balconies, stairs etc, you should provide the appropriate sealing of the substrate (hydro insulation). The sealing should also be inserted into the wall, up to the plinth height. The wall/substrate contact point may be additionally sealed with the specified tape and you are also recommended to use the expansion joint backing. The sealing should prevent water penetration into layers under the clinker facing and weakening the cementing bond between the facing and the substrate as well as protect the facing against drawing water from under the lining.
7. The facings should be laid in the same direction, according to the drawing lines on the inner side of the products.
8. With large areas it is necessary to make expansion joints every 2-5 m. The expansion joint width should be 10 mm. The joints should be filled with flexible mortar.
9. The facings on horizontal surfaces exposed to atmospheric precipitations should be laid with a slope to allow free water flow – min 2% slope.
10. Joints should left between the tiles and their most often used widths are from 8 to 14 mm. The joints should also be filled with commercially available mortars for pointing clinker. Mortars in the joints should be flush with the front of the facing and given a slightly concave profile. On the facade, the clinker facing should be flush with plaster on the wall. If the facing juts out over the plaster, it needs to be protected against rising damp. Pointing by the semi-dry method is advisable. Sludging is not recommended.
11. When laying the stair treads you must apply the rule of not sticking the vertical edge of the tread nose to the concrete element of the stairs.
12. Any auxiliary materials, i.e. primers, cements, grouts, flexible mortars, sealing etc, required for proper cementing of the clinker facings should be used in accordance with the recommendations of the manufacturers of these materials.
13. Clinker facings should be cemented by a professional who will decide on how to lay the facing and what auxiliary materials to use, according to the conditions prevailing at the place of cementing.

## EXAMPLES OF METHODS FOR LAYING CLINKER STAIRS

