

Frequently Asked Questions

Q. What is the U value (thermal performance) of ReadyBlock[®]?

A. Individual blocks do not have U Values. A U Value is determined by the type and thickness of each of the elements used to construct the wall, including airspaces. Extensive thermal insulation data is given in BRE Special Digest (SD4) 'Masonry walls and beam and block floors' available free of charge from CBA, alternatively, call our ReadyBlock[®] Helpline Tel: 0800 667 827.

Q. What is the life expectancy of aggregate block work?

A. It has been shown over a period of many decades that if protected from aggressive chemical or abrasive situations, concrete block work does not deteriorate with time.

Q. Which products are recommended for direct painting in an industrial environment?

A. Close textured aggregate blocks are suitable for direct painting. ReadyBlock have a variety of products close textured products available, such as Cellular Dense, Hollow Dense, 2000 Solid Dense and 1400 Solid Lightweight.

Q. Which products can be used below D.P.C. level?

A. All dense blocks & all lightweight blocks of 7.3N/mm² are suitable for use between foundations & D.P.C. provided there are no significant chemical contamination in the soil.

Q. How resistant are aggregate blocks to sulfate attack when used below ground?

A. All dense & lightweight blocks of 7.3N/mm² are deemed suitable for use in ground conditions up to & including Class DS-3.

Q. What mortar mix should be used with aggregate blocks?

A suitable mortar mix is chosen with reference to the durability requirements of the completed masonry. Strong mortars are required for conditions where saturation & freezing are anticipated; but weaker mortars are better with regard to accommodating movement due to settlement, temperature change & moisture content changes. BS5628-3 gives selection alternatives for each anticipated durability situation.

Q. How much sand & cement do I need for the mortar to build my wall?

A. For each sq. metre of 100mm wide walling about 12kg. of mortar is needed. So if – say – your chosen mix was 5:1 (sand:cement) & the wall was 100mm wide, you would need approx. 10kg of sand & 2kg of cement for each sq. metre of wall area.

Q. Do aggregate concrete blocks have the same strength when ‘laid flat’ as they do when laid upright?

Blocks can be considered to have the same strength figure (N/mm²) whatever orientation they are laid in.

Q. Are ReadyBlocks® approved for use in the construction of separating walls to ‘robust details’?

A. ReadyBlocks® are considered by Robust Details Ltd. to be suitable for use in all quoted ‘laid upright’ situations subject to the correct selection of block type & density.

Q. Which ReadyBlocks® conform to the 20kg maximum manual handling limit for repetitive one-man lifting?

A. All dense solid blocks up to 100mm width. All lightweight, dense cellular / hollow & dense ‘Midi’ blocks up to 140mm width.

If you do have any further questions please contact the Product Support Helpline on 0800 667 827 or email gb-enquiries@cemex.com.