

Water Absorption

Materials absorb water at different rates and qualities, once a material has adsorbed it's maximum volume of water this is called 'saturation point'.

When bricks are being laid, the mortar is wet and soft, since mortar absorbs water rather slowly, the brick quickly saturates up by capillary action to it's moisture content.

In the case of absorption from mortar to brick, the brick quickly absorbs the water, and after a few hours an almost stationary moisture profile develops in the mortar, this is what makes the mechanical bond between brick and mortar.

Timber is a natural water absorber, this is what makes trees grow, we need to stop this happening as the timber will decay.

- Q.1 Why do we lay engineering bricks different than FL quality bricks?
- Q.2 How do we keep the moisture content of bricks low?
- Q.3 How do we reduce water absorption from the ground in dwelling?
- Q.4 How do we measure the water content of a material to see how much water has been absorbed?
- Q.5 How does temperature affect water absorption?
- Q.6 What can happen to timber if it absorbs too much water?