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### Helpful Hints for Quality Brick Work:

1. Place the entire brick order several weeks prior to the start of the job. The brick Ordered should come from the same production run. Brick from different runs can Have slight color variations.
2. Store brick cubes off the ground and protect with covering prior to use. Place Brick cubes on straw, plastic or clean gravel to protect from mud staining.
3. Work out of several brick cubes for a well-blended wall.
4. Protect walls under construction by covering the top of wall with waterproof Membrane at the end of each day to prevent water from entering wall. Cover Should extend a minimum of 2 feet down the masonry and securely held in place.
5. A brick wall should be topped out once construction has begun whenever Possible to help facilitate a well blended wall with uniform color throughout. Working around the building or stopping work temporarily can produce a visible Line in the mortar. Mortar shade variations may result from changing weather And curing conditions as well as different moisture levels in the brick units when Work resumes.
6. Minimize efflorescence by preventing water from entering masonry walls during Construction. Refer to step 4 above.
7. Roll scaffold boards back from the wall at the end of each work day to prevent Rain splashed dirt and mortar stains.
8. Lay brick with full head and bed joints for a durable wall with minimal water Penetration.
9. Butter both ends of the closure brick and both brick adjacent to the closure to Resist water penetration.
10. Properly install all flashing and weep holes as specified. See **BIA Teach Note 7**.
11. Prevent excess mortar from dropping into the cavity during construction. Weep Holes and flashing must remain unclogged to drain properly.
12. Tool mortar joints with a concave, v-shaped or grapevine jointer for optimum Resistance to water penetration. Do not tool with a brick. Raked joints are not Recommended for exterior masonry exposed to weathering.
13. Tool mortar joints when "thumbprint" hard for uniform color. Tooling too soon Will result in mortar smears and a lighter appearance of the joint. Tooling when Mortar has hardened too much will cause an uneven darkening or "tool burn" of The joint. See **BIA Tech Note 7B**.
14. After tooling, cut off mortar tags with a trowel and clean the wall with a soft Mason's brush.

### **Helpful Hints for Quality Brick Work Continued.....**

15. Measure mortar sand by volume, not by shovels. This is especially important When using colored mortar for color consistency from one batch to another.
16. Allow mortar to mix in a mechanical mixer for a minimum of 3-5 minutes. Less Mixing time may cause poor workability, non-uniformity and the need for more Retempering. Mortar should be used up with 2-½ hours.
17. The use of anti-freeze or chloride accelerators for cold weather construction is not Recommended. Heating the masonry sand and mixing water is a better alternative. See **BIA Tech Note 1**.
18. Allow new brick masonry to cure for at least 7 days before wet cleaning.
19. Do not use pressurized water cleaning on sand-faced extruded brick, sand molded Brick, surface coated brick or glazed brick. See **Cleaning Guide**
20. Never use high water pressure in excess of 700 PSI when cleaning brick work. Excess water pressure will damage brick units and erode mortar joints. See **BIA Tech Note 20**.