Breeze Blocks

Best Practices Installation Guideline

This resource provides general best practices for installing breeze blocks.

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Purpose

This document outlines best practices for specifying, planning, and installing decorative breeze block systems. It aims to assist designers, architects, and installers during early decision-making and coordination stages.

Each breeze block collection has its own installation guide that details material-specific characteristics, joint requirements, adhesives, and finishing considerations. These guides should always be consulted before installation.

Understanding Breeze Block Systems

Breeze blocks are three-dimensional, decorative units designed to introduce pattern, ventilation, and visual separation within interior spaces. They are not structural elements and should never be used to support loads or act as load-bearing walls.

Typical applications include:

- Interior feature walls
- Screens and partitions
- Decorative architectural accents

Breeze block systems are best suited for controlled interior environments where design intent, anchoring strategy, and installation conditions can be carefully managed.

Anchoring & Structural Support (General Guidance)

All breeze block installations require mechanical containment to maintain stability and alignment over time.

Best practices include:

- Secure a perimeter frame to adjacent walls, floors, or ceilings.
- Use metal or wood framing systems appropriate for the project environment.
- Ensure the base or substrate can adequately support the weight of the assembly.

Always reference the collection-specific installation guide for allowable dimensions.

Cutting & Handling

Material composition varies by collection, which can affect cutting techniques and tolerances. Cutting and grinding must follow applicable silica dust-control requirements. Uncontrolled dry cutting or grinding is not permitted. Follow all safety and dust-control regulations.

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Glazed Bonding Surfaces: Preparation & Mortar Selection

When glaze is present on surfaces that will receive mortar or adhesive, additional preparation may be needed to promote adhesion. Apply the following guidance only to bonding surfaces. Protect exposed decorative faces from grinding, primer, and adhesive residue.

Always consult the collection-specific installation guide and confirm that the selected preparation method, primer, and mortar are compatible with the block material, joint requirements, and intended application.

Recommended Method:

1. **Mechanically Prepare the Bonding Surface:** Use an angle grinder equipped with a compatible diamond cup wheel designed for masonry to remove glaze and roughen the bonding surface. Avoid damaging the block or altering its dimensions. Remove grinding residue before applying primer or mortar.

   Grinding requires appropriate silica dust controls, protective equipment, and trained handling. Follow applicable safety requirements and equipment instructions.

2. **Apply a Compatible Bonding Primer:** After surface preparation and cleaning, apply a bonding primer approved for the prepared surface and selected mortar. Products for consideration include MAPEI ECO Prim Grip and LATICRETE PRIME-N-BOND, subject to manufacturer confirmation for the application.

   Apply with a brush or roller, as directed. ***Follow the manufacturer's requirements for coverage, drying time, and application.***

3. **Install with Polymer-Modified Thinset Mortar:** Use a polymer-modified thinset mortar approved for the block material and installation conditions. Follow the collection-specific requirements for joint dimensions, mortar placement, and curing. Do not substitute standard masonry mortar without confirmation of suitability.

Alternate Bonding Methods:

- **Without mechanical preparation:** A compatible bonding primer followed by polymer-modified thinset mortar may be considered where approved by the collection and installation-material manufacturers.
- **Epoxy adhesive:** An epoxy setting adhesive, such as LATAPOXY 300 Adhesive, may be considered where additional bond performance is required. Confirm surface preparation and primer requirements with the adhesive manufacturer before use. Epoxy products require careful mixing, application, and cleanup.

Post-Installation Cleaning & Maintenance

Best practices include:

- Remove adhesive residue using diluted neutral detergent and warm water.
- Avoid acid-based cleaners, abrasive pads, or harsh chemicals.
- Inspect installations periodically.

Natural variation, subtle color shifts, and minor surface imperfections may occur over time and are considered normal characteristics of decorative architectural materials.

Professional Installation Required

Breeze block systems should always be installed by experienced professionals familiar with architectural installations. Incorrect handling, anchoring, or reinforcement can affect both looks and function.

Creative Materials Corporation is not responsible for failures caused by improper installation or use outside of recommended applications.

Conclusion

For additional technical details, specification review and consultation, or related information, please contact your dedicated consultant or email us at info@creativematerialscorp.com. We'll be happy to assist.