

INSTALLING GLASS BLOCKS MORTAR FIX SYSTEM

WHAT YOU NEED TO BEGIN

- Glass block spacers (10mm joint).
- Glass blocks
- Panel anchors.
- Expansion strips.
- Panel reinforcing, for glass block panels with spans of greater than 1.4m.
- SHG glass block mortar.
- Mechanical fixing i.e. screws or rawl bolts.
- Electric drill.
- Small trowel, level, sponge.
- Caulking gun with Silicone sealant.
- Other common tools may be required.

Preparation

- Determine size of your glass block panel.**
For horizontal and vertical size, multiply the modular size of the block (200mm) by the number of the blocks horizontally and vertically and add 10mm. This gives you the rough opening size, based on 10mm mortar joints.
- Install panel anchors.**
The glass block panel is tied into the frame by use of panel anchors (these become embedded in mortar). Anchors are attached to jambs and head but not the cill. Anchors are placed at 400mm centres.
- Install expansion strips.**
Expansion strips should be stapled or nailed along jamb and head between anchors.
- Determine how many spacers you need.**
Generally, the rule of thumb is 1.5 spacers per block. To ensure an adequate supply, allow for 10% more spacers than required.
- Preparing glass block spacers.**
The spacer is actually 3 spacers in one. By simply trimming off certain elements, 'L' and 'T' spacers are created.
- Orient Spacer correctly.**
Normally, the spacer crossbar should face downward. The crossbar should only face upward at the cill, as a 'T' spacer.
- Prepare the mortar.**
A 25kg bag of SHG premix glass block mortar is sufficient for installation of 20 No. 190 x 190 x 80mm blocks. Follow the instructions on the bag.

INSTALLATION

Laying the first course

1. Apply Bitumen Paint or sanded Bitumen Felt to the cill.
2. Apply glass block mortar to a clean, level cill. Use enough mortar so that a 10mm joint will remain when blocks are in place.
3. Using an 'L' and 'T' spacer on the sill and jamb surfaces, insert first block at lower corner.
4. Push the block snugly into place ensuring it is properly seated. Place a regular spacer on upper corner of first block. Apply layer of mortar to the vertical edge of the new block and put into place. Once again, check block is properly seated.

5. Continue laying first course by repeating steps 1, 2 and 3. Periodically use level and plumb line to assure accuracy of panel. Adjust as necessary before continuing. Ensure the vertical joints are fully filled tamping in where necessary.

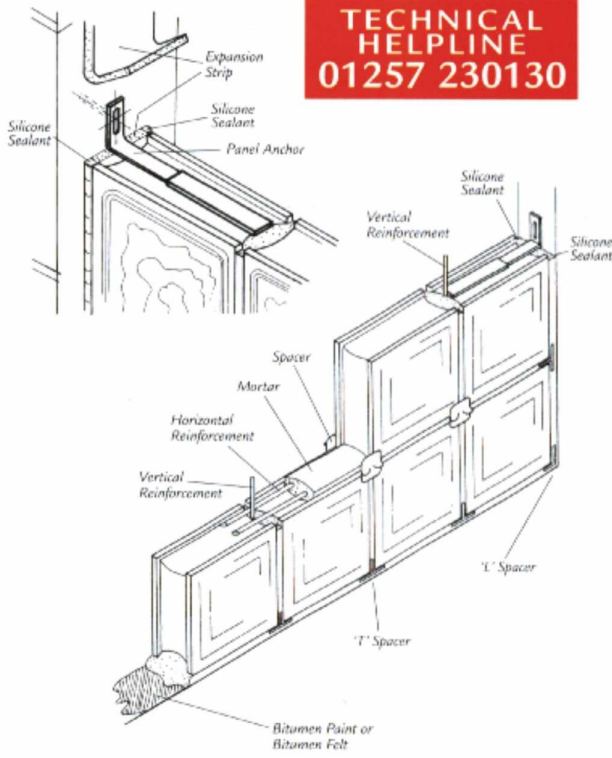
INSTALLING THE REMAINING COURSES

6. When first course is complete, apply layer of mortar to top of blocks, spread and smooth making sure that crosslegs of spacers are free of mortar. This ensures accurate spacing.
7. Continue laying blocks, repeating steps 1-6.
8. When you encounter panel anchors, ensure that top of block (with spacer in place) slips under the anchor. Continue finishing that course, then apply mortar to top, embedding anchor.
9. For panels with spans of greater than 1.4m panel reinforcing must be installed horizontally and vertically as alternate. If you use more than one strip overlap them by 150mm.
10. When laying top course, put appropriate spacers in place before inserting block.

FINISHING AND CLEAN UP

1. Using a damp clean sponge remove excess mortar from the block faces. Be sure to rinse often using clean water only (no abrasive products). Do not let mortar dry completely before removal from block. Block will be left with a light film which will be removed later.
2. Twist end tabs off all spacers. After mortar has set for one hour, use striking tool to smooth joints. This produces even, professional results and compacts the mortar to create a moisture-resistant seal. After striking, all joints should be left completely full of mortar. For shower installations you may rake joints to a depth of 10 mm then after a 24 hour cure, fill the joints with our FISW wide joint panel grout. After two hours, wipe blocks with soft cloth. Use a silicone mastic to seal panel at jambs and head.

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3. One or two hours after striking joints, wipe the block faces with a soft, clean, dry cloth.
4. Using the caulk gun, apply silicone sealant continuously along the seams where the block panel joins the jambs and the head. Be sure to apply sealant on both sides of the panel. Trim may also be applied at the seams. If you have a wooden edging, cover it with moulding.

