Antique Full Brick Wall Installation Guide

Reclaimed Brick for Structural and Veneer Wall Construction

Overview

Antique full bricks are reclaimed from historic buildings and are commonly reused in new wall construction, including structural masonry and veneer applications. Installation methods generally follow standard modern brick masonry practices; however, special consideration must be given to mortar selection to ensure compatibility with historic brick.

General Considerations

- Verify brick dimensions, absorption rates, and overall condition prior to installation.
- Antique bricks are typically softer and more porous than modern machine-made brick.
- Brick selection, wall design, and structural requirements should be determined by qualified professionals.
- Follow applicable building codes and industry standards for masonry construction.
- Mock-ups are recommended to confirm appearance, joint tooling, and mortar color.

Mortar Selection Considerations

Proper mortar selection is critical when installing antique brick. Mortar should generally be softer and more vapor-permeable than the brick itself, allowing movement and moisture to be accommodated without damaging the masonry units.

- Avoid high-strength mortars such as Type S or Type M unless specifically required by engineering.
- Type N mortar is commonly recommended for exterior above-grade walls using antique brick.
- Lime-based mortars or custom blends may be appropriate for historic restorations or softer brick.

- Mortar should be weaker than the brick so that cracking occurs in the joint rather than the brick.
- Consult a preservation professional or mason experienced with historic materials when in doubt.

Installation Notes

- Pre-wet bricks as required to control absorption and improve bond.
- Lay brick using standard masonry techniques and appropriate joint thickness.
- Tool joints consistently to shed water and achieve the desired historic appearance.
- Protect newly laid masonry from rapid drying, freezing, or excessive moisture during curing.

Maintenance & Performance

When properly installed with compatible mortar, antique brick walls offer excellent durability and long-term performance. Periodic inspection of mortar joints and repointing with compatible materials will help preserve the masonry over time.

Important Disclaimer

This document provides general informational guidelines only. Gavin Historical Bricks does not perform installations and is not responsible for installation methods, workmanship, or performance. We are not installation experts and defer to qualified, experienced masons, engineers, architects, and preservation professionals for all design and installation decisions. Project-specific conditions, structural requirements, and local codes may require variations from the guidelines shown.

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