

Main Street Memo

Sand Lime Mortar

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The use of sand lime mortar to bond the masonry bricks together was the standard prior to 1933. This type of mortar does not bond as well to brick or stone as today's Portland-cement mortar. Its major issue is that the sand lime mortar can be washed and flaked away by years of weather and in particular, hose streams.

Brick parapet walls on older buildings using sand lime mortar will be particularly prone to collapse from the force of a master stream appliance such as a deck gun or a ladder pipe.

