

1. To confirm that your brick absorbs water, splash a cup of water onto the brick. If the water beads up and runs off, your brick cannot be stained. It may have a coat of sealant applied, or it may be a non-absorbent type of brick. If this is the case, contact a brick restoration specialist to see if the coating can be removed.

2. Check weather conditions. The brick surface should be completely dry and clean. Exterior brick surfaces should not be stained during wet or windy weather to avoid dripping and uneven drying. Some stains should not be applied in cold or hot weather, as described on the label.

Temperature is usually only a concern at cold and hot extremes. We recommend carrying out tinting in temperatures ranging from 5°C to 32°C.

3. Clean the bricks to remove mildew, stains, and dirt. Lightly soiled bricks can be cleaned with a simple pressure washer. Heavily soiled bricks may require the use of super-heated steam pressure washing or even a chemical brick cleaner.

4. To protect yourself and the area from splashes, wear gloves, old clothes, and safety glasses. Use painter's tape to seal off areas you do not intend to stain, such as window sills, door frames etc.

As long as you're careful during application, you do not need to seal the mortar lines between bricks.

Keep a bucket of clean water nearby so you can quickly rinse spills.

5. Ensure the lid is tightly sealed and shake the jerry can vigorously to remix any pigment that has settled. Invert and rotate the container whilst shaking. Once thoroughly mixed, pour the contents into a suitable clean container such as a paint kettle. Make sure you can easily fit your brush into the container.

6. If you are confident that the colour selected is correct, test the tinting solution in a small, inconspicuous area or if possible, on a spare brick. Allow it to dry completely so you can see how close the match is.

7. The solution can be lightened by adding water to a maximum ratio of 1 part solution to 2 parts water. It can be further lightened by adding additional fixative which is available from your supplier. Remember to record the ratio of solution to water used.

8. Repeat this test each time you try a new mixture. Stains are permanent, so it's worth taking the time to find a colour you prefer. If you cannot find a suitable colour contact us for help.

9. When you are happy with the colour apply the stain to the entire area following these steps:

9.1 Stir thoroughly in a figure eight pattern each time you dip the brush.

9.2 Dip and drain the brush. Use an ordinary paintbrush, about as wide as a single brick. Dip it into the stain, then press it against the side of the container nearest to you to drain excess stain. Don't use the side of the container opposite you, or splashes could hit the wall.

9.3 For brick-and-mortar structures, run the brush along a single brick in one smooth motion. For brick pavers or other surfaces with no material between them, brush on in overlapping strokes, covering each surface twice. In either case, immediately touch up minor gaps with the corner of the brush.

9.4 To avoid splashing, pull the brush toward the direction of the hand you are using (e.g. left to right for right-handed people).

9.5 Dip and drain the brush after every 3rd or 4th stroke, or when you notice it's leaving a less even layer of stain. Stir in a figure of 8 each time to keep the colour even. Do not dip the brush partway through a single brick unless absolutely necessary.

9.6 Tint bricks in a scattered pattern. If you stain the bricks in a row, you may get darker or lighter colour at one end, when you reach the bottom of your stain container. Any subtle differences will replicate the natural look of brick by staining in a scattered pattern.

10. Clean up any drips immediately. Drips can leave darker streaks that are difficult to remove once set. Wipe them up with a damp rag immediately. Drain the brush against the side of the container to prevent more drips.

If you accidentally stain the mortar between bricks and can't wipe it all off, scrape off the colour gently with a suitable metal tool.

11. Stain the mortar (optional). If you plan to stain the mortar, use a narrow brush that can fit inside the mortar lines. Using a different colour is recommended for aesthetic reasons.

12. Clean up. Wash all tools promptly with clean water to avoid dry residue. Any excess stain can be carefully poured back into the original container using a funnel.

13. Wait for the stain to dry. Drying time varies significantly with temperature, humidity, and product. Good air flow across the brick's surface will speed this up.

14. Admire your handy work and recommend Total Wall Care Colour Matching products to your friends and family.

**Coverage** depends on the porosity of the substrate and effect required.

Determine coverage with a trial application.

Typical coverage 20-25m<sup>2</sup>/Litre per coat.

**Storage** - Store in a dry area, away from direct sunlight. Storage conditions should be in the range of 5°C – 25°C with low to average humidity. Average shelf life is six months in original, unopened packaging.

## SAFETY INFORMATION

- **Keep Out of Reach of Children**
- Irritating to eyes and skin
- Avoid contact with eyes and skin
- Risk of serious damage to eyes
- In case of contact with eyes and skin rinse immediately with plenty of water and seek medical advice
- If swallowed seek medical advice immediately and show container.
- Gloves and eye protection should be worn during mixing and application.
- Contains Potassium Silicate: 60% W/W CAS No. 67/548/EEC
- Contains Natural and Synthetic Pigment: CAS No. 1309-37-1
- May contain Amorphous Silica CAS No. 7631-86-9