

## **Sands and Admixtures**

Always use well graded sharp sands, free of clay/silt and non-contaminated organically or chemically. Please discuss the sand grading with your St Astier distributor to make sure that the proposed sand is suitable. The use of the wrong sand can cause failures. Sands should be washed and preferably dry. Damp sands can be used but in this case the total water required for the mortar will be diminished. Calcareous aggregates should be avoided as they have high shrinkage properties.

Sands with angular sharp particles are preferred.

Well graded sands must be used, Sands that meet BS standards are not always well graded as this standard allows for concentrations of the same grade of particles. Monogranular sands (gradings concentrated in 1 or 2 values) must not be used.

Fine (soft) sands can be used (max. 20% of the total sand requirement) to obtain a colour or to blend with a coarse sand to provide a better grading of fines.

### **Large Joints, Building, Bedding, Capping, External Renders Base Coat/Undercoat:**

From 3 mm down to 75 microns (in some cases 5mm or even 10mm - down is admissible).

### **Thin Joints, Smooth or Light Textured Finishing Coats, Internal Plasterwork:**

Sand maximum granular size should not be greater than 1/3 of the joint thickness. Sands of 2mm down to 75 microns can be used. In these cases the NHL binder-sand ratio can be 1:3 (or 1:4 for even finer sands when using NHL 2)

**Remember:** Finer sands will require more water, increasing the possibility of shrinkage.

### **Admixtures:**

**SBR** - sometimes used in base coats for renders on smooth or poor suction surfaces. Do not add more than 10% of the weight of the binder. Dilute with water used for initial mixing. The use of SBR will reduce the total amount of water needed in the mix. Can also be used in highly diluted lime paints (2%-10% of the quantity of water added) for work on very smooth surfaces.

PVA are not suitable for external work.

Casein - can be used in pure lime injection work or in gravity fill mortars. Add about 1% of the weight of the binder, Water requirement can be reduced up to 50%, depending on the amount used

*Air entrainers, water retentive, waterproofing and retarding admixtures:* Not necessary.

If you have any questions or queries please do not hesitate to contact Womersley's Limited on Tel 01924 400651 or call in at our workshop.