

Protection of Natural Stone from Adverse Weather Conditions

With the summer months behind us and with the inevitable march toward Autumn/Winter now beginning, our thoughts start to focus on the various challenges this may face toward our industry and the sensible precautions that are needed to avoid unnecessary frost damage.

As an organisation our clients often ask for advice on how to reduce the risk of weather related damage occurring. For those not as experienced in this field you may not be aware of the easily avoidable problems that can arise if a few simple steps are taken to help prevent problems on site.

Blockstone naturally contains a large amount of water and quarry sap and whilst blocks are quarried, in advance of use, they are still damp at the time of sawing which adds yet more water to the equation.

During production of all masonry products we can ensure that your stone is kept covered and out of the elements at all times, however once your stone arrives on site it can often be at the mercy of the elements and from time to time unfortunately problems do arise.

We have put together a few simple tips that can help minimise the problems you may have and will go a long way to ensure you have a damage and hassle free winter and as always please do not hesitate to contact us if we can offer any further advice on the matter.

- Try to plan ahead – If you know you have a project approaching why not order early and let us cut it as soon as you have the details. We can ensure the stone is cut and worked before you need it and your masonry will have time to begin drying out in advance of fixing.
- Stock up on winter essentials such as hessian and other insulating materials. These can be laid over any pallets of stone both inside and out to prevent frost getting into the stone.
- Storage of your stone during the winter months can be key. Is there somewhere sheltered and covered that can be used on site to store your stone out of the elements. This will keep the worst of the weather away from your masonry and help allow the stone to dry out further prior to fixing.
- Un-wrapping your stone early can be very useful. We want your stone to arrive in perfect condition and go to a lot of effort to package your stone ready for transport. The poly and shrink wrap does however serve to trap moisture within the stone and can delay drying significantly. Opening up your pallets will allow the stone to dry out quicker by allowing air to circulate around the masonry.
- Covering up your stone during and importantly after fixing is another vital step in helping the stone through the early days of winter. We understand the demands of industry and know that whilst we would all avoid fixing in cold weather that projects still need to run to schedule irrespective of the British winter. Keeping your stone covered during and after installation, for a sensible length of time, will ensure it is protected for long enough to allow the stone to dry out sufficiently in order to avoid possible damage.

Farmington Masonry LLP will not be held liable for any deterioration or damage arising from weather conditions.

Farmington Quarry
Northleach Cheltenham
Gloucestershire GL54 3NZ

Quarry: 01451 860280
Facsimile: 01451 860115
email: info@farmington.co.uk

Fireplaces, Masonry and
Building Stone:
www.farmington.co.uk