



# SCRATCH & BASE

## STONE VENEER MORTAR

1-888-SPECMIX

DIVISION 04  
MASONRY PRODUCTS

### Optimal Bond. Great Workability.

SPEC MIX® Stone Veneer Mortar Scratch and Base is a blend of dry, preblended mortar designed to bond precast, lightweight masonry veneer units to base surfaces such as in-lace masonry, concrete or galvanized expanded metal. The final wall system will produce a nonload-bearing, aesthetically

appealing exterior veneer or interior finish on concrete or masonry walls, stud walls or metal buildings.

Scratch and Base is produced under strict manufacturing standards, and complete quality control measures are implemented with each batch. A digital printout displaying the proper proportions per batch may be kept as a permanent record. Each SPEC MIX® manufacturer certifies that SPEC MIX® masonry products are designed to meet the project specifications and applicable ASTM standards.

#### MATERIALS USED

CEMENT  
HYDRATED LIME  
PERFORMANCE ADMIXTURES  
SAND



TOTAL QUALITY CONTROL WITH EVERY BAG  
SPECIFICALLY FORMULATED FOR OPTIMAL  
BOND AND REDUCED CRACKING  
PREBLENDED WITH SAND TO MINIMIZE LABOR COST  
CONSISTENCY BATCH TO BATCH  
GREAT WORKABILITY AND BOARD LIFE  
NO SAND PILES OR WASTED MATERIALS LEFT ON SITE

## INSTALLATION/APPLICATION

SPEC MIX® Stone Veneer Mortar Scratch and Base should be installed in accordance with the provisions of the local building codes and applicable ASTM standards. These products should also be installed in accordance with the instructions and requirements provided by the manufacturer of the precast stone or brick. Prior to installation, all surfaces should be clean of dust and debris, as well as washed, before applying mortar. A water-resistant barrier should be applied to surfaces other than concrete masonry.

When mixing, a mechanical batch mixer best ensures homogeneity, workability and good board life. Use clean, potable water and add the maximum amount consistent with optimum workability. Mixing time is five minutes and should be consistent from batch to batch. Tool mortar joints when the surface is thumb-print hard. Keep tooling time consistent. Do not strike joints too early or too late as the color will not remain consistent with the mock-up panel. Hand mixing mortar should be permitted only with written approval by the specifier who should outline hand-mixing procedures. Mortar should be cured a minimum of 28 days. Clean masonry only with potable water.

Mortar shall be used and placed in final position within one hour after initial mixing or discarded at that time. Do not retemper colored SPEC MIX® Stone Veneer Mortar Scratch and Base by adding additional water. SPEC MIX® products are custom packaged to the specification. They must be kept dry, covered and protected from weather and other damage.

## APPLYING OVER WOOD AND LATH

When installing over galvanized metal lath, tightly attach the lath to the substrate using nails every six inches. To eliminate waves in the lath, screw lath into studs every 16 inches when attaching lath to plaster board or painted surfaces. For optimal appearance, the application of both mortar and precast units is best accomplished by working from top to bottom. Using a trowel, apply Scratch and Base ½ to ¾ inch (1.27-19.1 mm) thick to surface. To avoid setting and/or excessive water loss due to evaporation, apply mortar only in a working area less than five to 10 square feet before the unit is applied. Ensure the lath is completely covered by the Scratch and Base mortar. Before the mortar begins to harden, use a notched trowel to “scratch” the mortar surface. Coat the back of each unit with sufficient mortar and press it firmly into place until the excess materials extrudes from the sides of the unit. Once all the units are in place, fill each joint with SPEC MIX® Stone Veneer Joint Grout by using a grout bag, trowel and a tuckpointing tool or gun. For best results, allow the base coat to dry before applying joint grout.

## APPLICABLE STANDARDS: ASTM AND ACI

**ASTM C 91** STANDARD SPECIFICATION FOR MASONRY CEMENT: **ASTM C 109** STANDARD TEST METHOD FOR COMPRESSIVE STRENGTH OF HYDRAULIC CEMENT MORTARS: **ASTM C 144** STANDARD SPECIFICATION FOR AGGREGATE FOR MASONRY MORTAR: **ASTM C 150** STANDARD SPECIFICATION FOR PORTLAND CEMENT: **ASTM C 207** STANDARD SPECIFICATION FOR HYDRATED LIME FOR MASONRY PURPOSES: **ASTM C 270** STANDARD SPECIFICATION FOR MORTAR FOR UNIT MASONRY: **ASTM C 595** STANDARD SPECIFICATION FOR BLENDED HYDRAULIC CEMENTS: **ASTM C 897** STANDARD SPECIFICATION FOR AGGREGATE FOR JOB-MIXED PORTLAND CEMENT BASED PLASTER: **ASTM C 926** STANDARD SPECIFICATION FOR APPLICATION OF PORTLAND CEMENT BASED PLASTER: **ASTM C 979** STANDARD SPECIFICATION FOR PIGMENTS FOR INTEGRALLY COLORED CONCRETE: **ASTM C 1329** STANDARD SPECIFICATION FOR MORTAR CEMENT

## APPLYING OVER MASONRY AND CONCRETE

On a clean surface, a ½ to ¾ inch (1.27-19.1 mm) thick application of Scratch and Base mortar can be directly applied to the masonry or concrete substrate. Surfaces that are pointed or waterproofed should be prepared by sandblasting and cleaning. Before the mortar begins to harden, use a notched trowel to “scratch” the mortar surface. Coat the back of each unit with mortar and press it firmly into place until the excess material extrudes from the sides of the unit. Once all units are in place, fill each joint with SPEC MIX® Stone Veneer Joint Grout by using a grout bag, trowel and a tuckpointing tool or gun.

## SIZES AND EQUIPMENT

SPEC MIX® Stone Veneer Mortar Scratch and Base is available in 80 lb. (36 kg.) or 94 lb. (42 kg.) packages for easy hand loading or in 3000 lb. (1362 kg.) reusable bulk bags to be used with the various patented SPEC MIX® silo systems. When using the silo system, once the bulk bags of mortar are delivered to the project site, the portable silo is loaded with a jobsite forklift and the product is dispensed into a mechanical batch mixer.

## WARRANTY

Seller warrants that its Product will conform to and perform in accordance with the product specifications. The foregoing warranty is in lieu of all other warranties, express or implied, including, but not limited to, those concerning merchantability and fitness for a particular purpose. Because of the difficulty in ascertaining and measuring damages hereunder, it is agreed that, except for claims for bodily injury, Seller's liability to the Buyer shall not exceed the total amount billed and billable to the Buyer for the product hereunder.

## LIMITATIONS

SPEC MIX® Stone Veneer Mortar Scratch and Base should be installed in accordance with the provisions of the local building code and applicable ASTM standards. Good workmanship



coupled with proper detailing and design assures durable, functional, watertight construction.

## PRECAUTIONS

Safety glasses and a dust mask are recommended when handling any mortar mixture containing silica. The cementitious materials mixed onsite are alkaline in nature and on contact with water will irritate the eyes and skin. If contact with eyes occurs, flood eyes repeatedly with clean water and see a physician immediately. Do not rub eyes. Wash hands thoroughly after handling or before eating. Do not take internally. Keep out of reach of children.

## TECHNICAL SUPPORT

- CONTACT YOUR LOCAL SPEC MIX® MANUFACTURER
- VISIT [WWW.SPECMIX.COM](http://WWW.SPECMIX.COM)
- CONTACT SPEC MIX®, INC.  
PHONE: 888-SPEC-MIX FAX: 888-FAX-SPEC

SPEC MIX, INC. IS THE LICENSOR TO 42 LICENSED MANUFACTURERS LOCATED IN THE U.S. EACH LICENSEE ADHERES TO A STRICT QUALITY ASSURANCE PROGRAM TO ENSURE COMPLETE QUALITY CONTROL IN EVERY BATCH, THROUGHOUT THE PROJECT.