

Building and Using Sample Panels



The jobsite sample panel is a commitment by the construction team to the quality that must be delivered to the building owner. Masonry sample panels are required by Code and simply are the best way to set the standard for acceptance of the finished work. When a sample panel has been built and accepted, everyone is protected from misunderstandings that can be frustrating and disputes that can be expensive. Simply following industry standards on the use of a sample panel is a great way to assure that your project will be successful.

Sample Panel Defines Project Quality

The jobsite sample panel is the single most important tool to control the quality of the masonry walls. After it is approved, the sample panel is a point of reference of how the walls are expected to be built and look at the completion of the project.

Mortar tooling, cleaning, and coatings are all demonstrated on the sample panel. Masons can confirm their means and methods are acceptable before it is too late and the walls are built.

After the architect approves the jobsite sample panel, managers can use the sample panel as a daily reminder for their crew on the quality they committed to build. The general contractor and jobsite inspector have a visual reference of what the specifications require, what the mason agreed to provide and the architect approved as acceptable.

QUICK POINTS

- The Jobsite Sample Panel is the best tool to assure wall quality
- The accepted sample panel provides a visual reference for the ongoing work on the project
- The sample panel is not used for masonry color selection – that should be completed prior to construction of the panel.
- Every important aspect of the finished wall is demonstrated on the sample panel first.
- The sample panel is a great way to test cleaning methods and post-applied coatings without risk to the walls.

Specifying and Building the Sample Panel

In general, the designer should follow the requirements of the most current edition of the “Building Code Requirements and Specification for Masonry Structures”

The jobsite sample panel must be constructed and approved before the masonry work begins on the project. All samples and submittals except the mortar color must be approved before the jobsite sample panel is constructed.

Mortar joint color and tooling greatly influence the finished appearance of the wall and must be approved in the sample panel, and tooled by the mason contractor selected for the project.

Construct the sample panel on the jobsite at a highly visible location where it will not be disturbed before the completion of this project. Use only the materials that were approved in the submittal review and masonry units that were already manufactured for this project.

The contractor should place orders for jobsite sample panel materials with masonry producers so that they have advance notice to manufacture and collect the full range of color for the building for shipment on a separate pallet.

The minimum size of the sample panel dimensions must be at least 4 ft. by 4 ft. A larger panel may allow more options to test cleaning and sealing. One approach is to build a sample panel that is 4ft by 8ft in order to demonstrate how the wall looks both before and after cleaning and surface treatments.

The purpose of jobsite sample panel is to show the acceptable standard of work for the project and it must include:

1. The full range of masonry unit color and texture that will be visible in the finished walls.
2. Bond pattern and color pattern if masonry units of more than one color are being used.
3. Chippage dimensions and frequency including dimensional variation per project specifications.
4. Mortar joint size, tooling, alignment, texture and color range.
5. If colored mortar is used, the color must be judged after the sample panel has had sufficient time to dry.
6. Installation of flashing, weeps, drip edge and sealant joint.
7. Movement joint installation and sealant joint
8. Cleaning means and methods.
9. Surface treatments such as breathable sealants.



The sample panel will be used for final acceptance of the masonry work and must remain unharmed until the masonry is complete and accepted. The Masonry Code charging language states:

“The acceptable standard for the Work is established by the accepted panel.”

The sample panel will be viewed from a distance of 20 feet away under diffused lighting to evaluate the results.

Conclusion

Simply following industry standards on the use of a sample panel is a great way to assure that your project will be successful.



Questions?

For more information, visit concreteproductsgroup.com or email your questions to info@concreteproductsgroup.com