



CLARIFICATION ON WET CUTTING

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The proper approach to cutting masonry units, in terms of both material and worker safety, is to use wet cutting techniques.

Due to valid industry recommendations, there has been confusion against laying wet concrete masonry units in the wall. Concern that excess shrinkage as the units dry might lead to cracks has led some overly cautious specifiers to prohibit wet cutting. The bottom line is that the amount of water added to the unit during site cutting is insignificant, in terms of shrinkage. This was clarified in the ACI 530.01-05/ASCE 6-05/TMS 602-05 Specification for Masonry Structures. The article on wetting concrete masonry units includes this sentence: "Wet cutting is permitted."

Wet cutting is absolutely necessary to protect the health of the craftworker doing the cutting. It reduces the risk of airborne silica particulates, which have been linked to silicosis, a debilitating lung disease.



Correct way to cut masonry.



Incorrect way to cut masonry.

It is never OK to cut dry!