



# SILO MORTAR MIXES

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## The masonry industry is changing the way it produces mortar.

Silo systems that store and dispense mortar materials have gained a foothold in many areas. These systems offer some significant advantages over traditional methods of mixing mortar on the job site.

With a silo system, the contractor orders the particular mortar mix required for the project. The supplier pre-blends the appropriate cementitious materials (portland cement and lime, masonry cement, mortar cement), sand, and dry pigments and admixtures, and delivers the mixture in 3,000-lb. bulk bags. Depending on the size of the project, one or more bags are emptied into storage silos on the job site. To mix mortar, the mason tender positions a batch mixer beneath the silo, dispenses dry mix from the silo and mixes it with water as usual.

Silo systems provide several benefits:

- They reduce the space and effort required to store mortar material on the job site.
- Materials stay dry and secure until mixed. There's no worry about sand piles freezing in cold weather, and clean-up is easier.
- Pre-blending in bulk by the supplier produces a more consistent mortar mix than batches prepared onsite.
- They reduce the time and effort involved in mixing mortar. Dispensing the dry mix from the silo is far easier than lifting and breaking bags of cement and lime and shoveling sand from a pile.

Silo systems generally improve the productivity and working conditions in the mortar mixing process. Quality control checks in the field can also be simplified to the point of only providing compliance reports from the silo mix mortar producer (similar to batch tickets for ready mix concrete).

**Silo Mortar Mixes Tip**

**As with any mortar, some specifiers may still require additional field-sampling.**