SOUND WALL — CONCRETE MASONRY BLOCKS

Medium Weight Masonry

The standard sound wall masonry block detail sheets use medium weight masonry units. The specifications will permit the use of either lightweight or medium weight masonry, provided they meet the required strengths. All special designs should be based on medium weight units.

High Strength Masonry

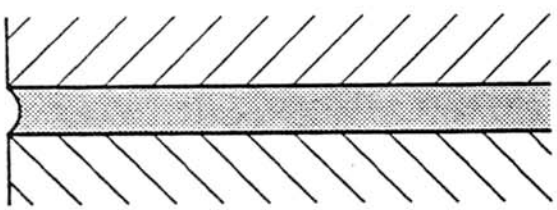
The redesign of the standard detail sheets has eliminated the need for high strength masonry units. If, however, they are required for projects with special design, the ultimate strength (f'_m) should be 2700 psi and the working stress level (f_m) should be 900 psi. Both of these values should be shown on the plans.

Fluted and Scored Blocks

When fluted or scored blocks are used, the plans should indicate the number of flutes or scores per block, the pertinent block dimensions, block arrangement, type of joint finish and special alignment, if any. These type of blocks should be selected from the catalogs of manufacturers who might be considered logical sources of supply. Block configurations that would require special manufacturing molds should be avoided.

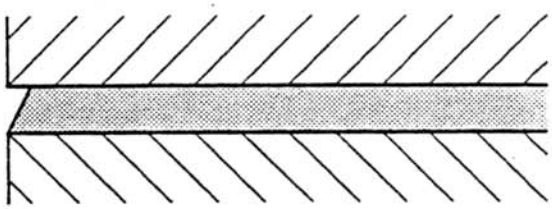
Joints

Horizontal joints shall be tooled concave or may be weathered.



— CONCAVE JOINT —

Most common joint used. Tooling works the mortar tight into the joint to produce a good weather joint. Pattern is emphasized and small irregularities in laying are concealed.

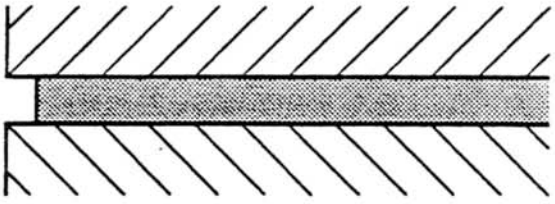


— WEATHERED JOINT —

Use to emphasize horizontal joints. Acceptable weather joint with proper tooling. Care must be taken to properly paint the overhanging ledge of the unit at each mortar joint.

Supersedes Memo to Designers 22-50 dated September 1981

Vertical joints shall be tooled concave or may be raked.



— RAKED JOINT —

Strongly emphasizes joints. Poor weather joint — Not Recommended.

Slump Blocks

The standard detail sheets are suitable for use with concrete slump block units. Only tooled concave joints will be permitted with slump block. When compared with regular masonry units, the width and length dimensions of slump block are normally less and the face shells are normally thicker. Special designs should take into account the reduction in design depth due to the narrower width and the wider face shells.

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