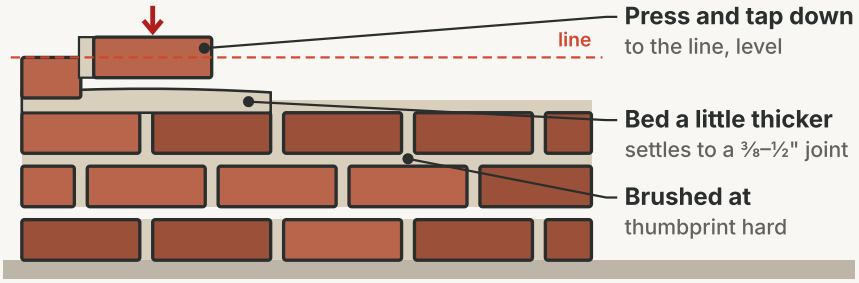
HOW-TO · NHL 3.5 LIME MORTAR

# Laying brick with lime mortar

Mix it right, keep the bricks damp, and let the joints cure slowly.



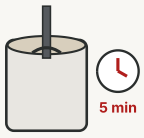

| 24 h before | Laying day | 72 hours after |
|---|---|---|

Keep it between 40 and 85°F the whole time

## At a glance

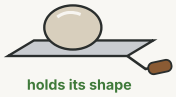
| | |
|---|---|
| Joints | **⅜" and wider** |
| Water | **Start with ½ gal per 38.5 lb bag** |
| Mix | **5 min; use within about 1 hour** |
| Additives | **None** |
| Weather | **40–85°F, 24 h before to 72 h after** |
| Cure | **Mist twice a day for 3 days** |
| Full cure | **About 28 days** |

### 1 Mix




About ½ gal of water per bag, half first. Drill paddle, 5 minutes.

### 2 Ball test



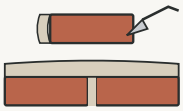

Judge only after 5 minutes. A ball holds its shape on the trowel.

### 3 Wet the bricks



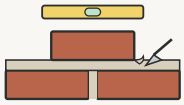

Damp, not dripping. Dampen the base too.

### 4 Bed and butter



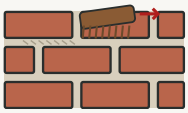
Bed a little thicker than the joint. Butter each head joint.

### 5 Press, level, cut



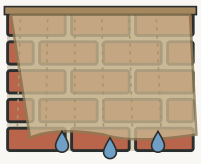
Tap to the line and level. Cut off squeeze-out. Don't shift a set brick.

### 6 Brush the joints



At thumbprint hard, brush. No steel slicking.

## Cure it slowly



Damp burlap held off the wall. Mist twice a day for 3 days. Keep it above 40°F for 72 hours.

## Clean and safe

- ✓ **Smears**
  Let them stiffen, then brush off dry.
- × **No additives**
  Water and the bag, nothing else.
- ✓ **Protect yourself**
  Goggles, gloves and a silica-rated dust mask.

## How much mortar?

About 30 bricks per bag, at ½" joints.

Pallet of 504 bricks ÷ 30
≈ **17 bags**

## Three ways to buy

NHL 3.5 lime mortar · breathable, made for reclaimed brick · joints ⅜" and wider

**A sample quart**
Priority mail in 1–3 days. Check the cured color.

**By the quart or bag**
Quart for patches; 38.5 lb bag, just add water.

**By the pallet**

| | Repointing | Laying brick |
|---|---|---|
| Bag | 30 ft²* | 30 bricks |
| Pallet (64) | **1,920 ft²** | **1,920 bricks** |

*Wall with ⅜" joints raked ¾" deep · bricks with ½" joints

**Brick calculator**
Scan to count bricks and mortar bags

**Chief Bricks** · 15 Fisher Ave, Nanuet, NY 10954 · (718) 379-1232 · chiefbricks.com