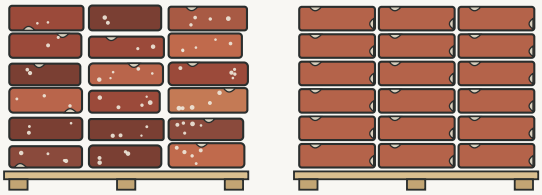
BUYER'S GUIDE · RECLAIMED BRICK

Is it really reclaimed?

Salvaged brick and new brick made to look old can look alike. Here is how to tell.



Salvaged
sizes, wear and color vary

New, made to look old
every brick alike

Two different products

	Salvaged (reclaimed)	New, made to look old
What it is	Old brick from a building or street	New brick, aged on purpose
Used before?	Yes, often for decades	No, never in a wall
Aged look	From its first life	From how it was made
Size	Varies, even after sorting	The maker's size
Its story	The seller who salvaged it	The maker's product info

Neither is good or bad. The label should say which one it is.

Five ways to tell them apart

No single clue proves it: look across a whole pallet

1 Old mortar



old mortar traces

Cleaned brick still holds small traces in its texture.

2 Size



sizes differ a little

Old bricks vary, even after sorting. All exactly alike? Ask.

3 Wear



wear differs

Each brick wore where it sat. Same chips on every brick? Ask.

4 Color



a natural range of color

Look across the whole pallet, not at one brick.

5 A sample



in daylight

Photos flatten it all. Hold one against your wall in daylight.

Ask any seller

1. **Where did they come from?** Building or street, and region.
2. **How old are they?** A range is an honest answer.
3. **Any old mortar left?** And how were they cleaned?
4. **How much does the size vary?**
5. **Is the wear from use, or added?**
6. **Can I see a sample?**
7. **Structural or non-structural?** And why.

How we answer

- ✓ **Salvaged in the US**
  Older buildings and streets, many in New York.
- ✓ **Checked and cleaned by hand**
  About a million a year; traces of old mortar can stay.
- ✓ **Sorted by type, size and color**
  Product pages give average size and bricks per pallet.
- ✓ **Samples by priority mail**
  For most of our reclaimed bricks.
- ✗ **Non-structural use**
  Not tested to current structural standards.

Three ways to buy

Reclaimed New York bricks · pallet coverage with ½" joints

A sample

A few bricks by priority mail, 1–3 days, for most of our reclaimed bricks.

By the brick

Any number, from just one. Good for repairs and matching.

By the pallet

	Full bricks	Bump	Flat floor
Bricks	504	450	504
Covers	82 ft² wall	86 ft² wall	119 ft² floor

Count your bricks
Scan for the brick calculator

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