

TECHNICAL ADVISORY NOTE

Molded Textured Face Brick Used as Pavers – Considerations

Redland Brick's Cushwa Handmade-texture and Cushwa and Rocky Ridge Antique-texture brick are made as face brick, intended for the finished faces and heads to be exposed in vertical walls. It is true that the physical properties also meet the *Light Duty Paver Standard ASTM C902, Class SX (severe weather for pavers), Type II (suitable for pedestrian traffic)*. Therefore, technically they could be used in paver applications. In fact, they often are. We recommend caution in doing so, however, for several reasons.

- The Antique texture brick have frogs on one bed, making that bed unsuitable as a paver surface. The other bed is the "struck" side of the brick, is not finished, and has a very coarse "torn" texture. This struck bed, used a paver surface, in addition to being less attractive, would hold and absorb much more water, and dirt, than a finished bed or face.
- Antique and Handmade brick have rounded corners. These can create depressions that could be a dangerous tripping hazard. Whether they are installed with bed exposed or face exposed, depressions will be present unless the joints are grouted with mortar in a manner that fills the depressions, which some may consider unattractive.
- Any depressions created by the rounded corners also would catch and hold water, again adding to the water absorption of the pavers, potentially leading to freezing damage. They also hold dirt that contributes to moss and mold growth.
- Siloxane water repellants to prevent water absorption can be effective to keep units clean. They do have limitations. They have a short effective life, requiring re-application every 2-5 years. They may be ineffective for "hand tight" applications, and less than completely effective on "struck" beds.



We have heard of many successful applications using Handmade brick (no frog) to pave residential porches, usually under cover. We know that un-frogged Antique texture brick are used similarly. They can also be used face up (on "edge") to avoid frogs or "struck" beds.

With good surface drainage (slope) and good joint grouting of mortared applications, these brick can work as pavers, understanding that the surface may be irregular. For flexible (sand bed) applications, good subsurface drainage is critical. The surface of the pavement will be irregular and slow down surface drainage. Even good quality paving brick can fail from freezing if they are continuously saturated during winter.

The bottom line is, Redland cannot warrant that the face brick will perform without failure in a paving application, but we know that such applications can be successful with good planning, design and construction. Good drainage is critical, and protection from precipitation is recommended.