

Bedding lintels

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Question

Can lintels and beams be dry bedded or is it necessary to bed them on mortar?

Considerations

- NHBC Standards clause 6.1.12 states that lintels should be installed level on a solid bed of mortar.
- BS EN 845-2 'Specification for ancillary components for masonry - lintels' states that lintels should be bedded on mortar and levelled.
- Mortar bedding takes out any unevenness between lintels/beams and their support.
- Full contact is required between lintels/beams and their support to reduce the effects of uneven loading, which could cause over stressing of the lintel or the supports.
- Lintels can twist where uniform support is not provided.

Answer

Lintels and steel beams should be bedded on mortar to both leaves to ensure an even distribution of the loads. The thickness of the bedding should be sufficient to accommodate any unevenness between the support and a lintel. Coursing considerations will mean that a full thickness of mortar bedding under the lintel may not always be possible.

