

Block bonding

(December 2008) (First issue)

Question

Where a separating wall continues beyond a stagger between homes to become an external wall, can the separating wall and external wall blockwork be toothed together?

Considerations

- To meet soundproofing and thermal requirements different types and density of blocks may be required in the separating and external walls.
- Part E Robust Details require that the blocks forming the separating wall should extend at least 300mm beyond the stagger before changing to the blocks used in the external wall.
- For short sections of wall the comparative drying and thermal movement of concrete and aircrete blocks is very similar and is not likely to give rise to cracking.

Answer

It is acceptable for the two types of blockwork to be toothed together, provided the separating wall blockwork extends at least 300mm beyond the stagger (See Figure 1).

In the case of wet plaster, differences in the suction of the two types of blockwork may cause cracking of the finish. This can be controlled by the appropriate use of primer/sealer.

In the case of dry-lining, cracking is not likely and so no precautions are necessary.

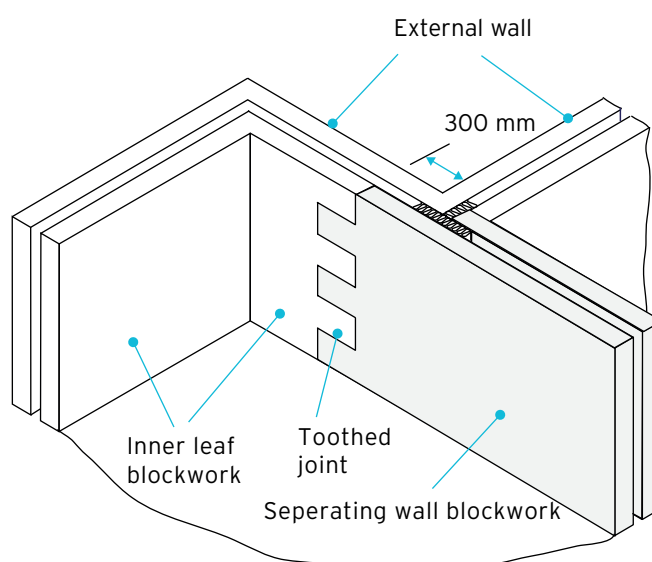


Figure 1 - Block bonding