

Guidelines for Architects and Engineers  
Fairfax County, BDCD

**040000 - MASONRY**

**I. DESIGN**

- A. Repairs and/or infills to existing structures shall be designed with matching mortar color, joint type, masonry color and texture, and masonry coursing pattern for all exposed masonry elements. Rake joints are not acceptable. Joints should be concave or grape vine to ensure weather resistant type of joint.
- B. Masonry specifications and drawings shall include requirements of the Fairfax County Special Inspections Program (FC-SIP).
- C. All testing and inspection of masonry work not covered by the FC-SIP shall be performed by the Contractor's testing agency.
- D. All exterior brick shall be Grade SW.
- E. Testing of mortar shall comply with ASTM C270, Specification for Mortar for Unit Masonry. The compressive strength shall be specified by mortar type applicable for the type and location of masonry as required. Note: Testing of mortar cubes in the field is not required by code nor recommend by ASTM C270. IBC Code inspection require that masonry assembly compressive strength be verified by either prism testing or unit strength method.
- F. Glass block shall not be used on exterior walls without written approval by Building Design and Construction (BDCD) Project Manager.
- G. Specify bull nosed block corners, for exposed block at occupied interior locations.
- H. Stock mortar colors are preferred. Written approval by BDCD Project Manager is required for any custom or specialty colors.
- I. Project specifications shall specifically require compliance with all applicable requirements of the FC-SIP, where applicable. Any requirements of the FC-SIP not specifically identified as a requirement of the Contractor shall be considered to be a requirement of the A/E and the Structural Engineering consultant.
- J. Project specifications shall state that Contractor is not authorized to proceed with manufacture or procurement of masonry elements or mortar until all related shop drawings, mix designs, and color samples are approved; and any required mock-ups are constructed and approved.
- K. A/E to include specifications for masonry cleaning to remove dirt, stains, efflorescence or other debris resulting from new work.

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- L. Confirm that the dimensioning of masonry openings for windows, doors, vents etc. fall on the masonry module sizes in the design and at shop drawing review to achieve brick coursing around the entire building both horizontally and vertically to avoid costly field cutting of masonry units.