

# [Method of Making Mortar, which will be Impenetrable to Moisture] E.F.

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gentleman of Neuchatel

Publication Format

Print

Type

Construction

Ingredients

lime

water

sand

milk

Places

Nova Scotia

Neuchatel

London

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Description

Instructions for making mortar, which includes an option for making it with milk. nn.667\_68. Microfilm Reel 8063.

Transcription

TO THE EDITOR OF THE NOVA SCOTIA MAGAZINE.

SIR,

IF you will insert the enclosed Method of making Mortar, which will be impenetrable to Moisture, in your useful Magazine, you will oblige a Subscriber, and, very probably, thereby confer an Obligation on the Public.

I am, Sir, your most obedient and humble Servant, E. F.

METHOD of making MORTAR, which will be impenetrable to MOISTURE.

TAKE of unslacked lime and fine sand in the proportion of one part lime to three parts sand, as much as a labourer can well manage at once; and then, adding water gradually, mix the whole well together, till it be reduced to the consistence of mortar. Apply it immediately, while it is yet hot, to the purpose either of mortar, as cement to brick or stone, or of plaister, for the furnace of any building. It will then ferment for some days in drier places, and afterward gradually concrete, or set and become hard. But in a moist place, it will continue soft for three weeks or more; though it will at length attain a firm consistence, even if water have such access to it, as to keep the surface wet the whole time. After this it will acquire a stone like Hardness, and resist all moisture.

The perfection of this mortar depends on the ingredients being thoroughly blended together, and the mixture's being applied immediately after to the place where it is wanted. In order to this, about five labourers should be employed for mixing the mortar, to attend one person who applies it. This method of making mortar, Mr. Dossie says, was discovered by a gentleman of Neuschattel, the back part of whose house being cut out of a rocky hill, the spring from the rock greatly annoyed it, and produced a continual damp, which nothing could cure till he tried the mortar above described, which effectually answer-

ed his purpose, and which by time grows so tenacious and firm, that he was induced to believe the method of composition was the same with that pursued by the anti-ents.

We are told that chalk lime, which is the kind most commonly used in London, is unfit for the purpose, on account of the stints it contains, which render it necessary to be skreened before it can be temper-

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ed with water and sand. Previous to skreening, however, the lime must be slacked: and the slacking it before it be mixed with sand, prevents its acting on that ingredient, so as to produce their incorporation; which power it loses in a great degree after its combination with the quantity of water that saturates it. The lime for this purpose, therefore, must be that made of lime-stone, shells, or marble; and the stronger it is, the mortar will be proportionably better.

Besides an attention should be paid to the kind of lime to be used in making this mortar; what is intended for it, should be carefully kept from the access of air, as it will readily attract moisture, and lose proportionably that power of acting on the sand to produce an incorporation. It is also advised to exclude the sun and wind from the mortar for some days after it is applied, that its drying too quickly may not prevent the due continuance of the fermentation, which is necessary to favour the action of the lime on the sand.

This mortar is attended with very particular advantages; for it may be used, and will even attain a perfect induration, though moisture have access to it when it is applied; and while it is fermenting and setting, it is extremely beneficial for preventing the oozing of water through the floors of walls of houses, where the common method used would have no effect. When a very great hardness and firmness are required in this mortar, the using of skimmed milk, instead of water, either wholly

or in part, will produce the desired effect;  
and in this circumstance, likewise, the  
preparation is imagined to resemble that of  
the antients.

Method of Making Mortar, which will be Impenetrable to Moisture recipe from Early Modern Maritime Recipes:  
<https://emmr.lib.unb.ca/recipes/44>