



RainBloc® FAQ

WHAT IS AN INTEGRAL WATER REPELLENT?

Integral water repellents are polymer based chemical admixtures added to Concrete Masonry units (CMU) during the manufacturing process. The water repellent is incorporated into the concrete mix at the plant to ensure that each block has water repellent distributed throughout the concrete matrix.

Untreated masonry units readily absorb water through a process called capillary suction or wicking action. RainBloc® anti-wicking action ensures that even if rainwater penetrates past the exterior face of the wall, RainBloc® system water repellent properties minimize the amount of water that is absorbed into the concrete, causing any water inside the wall to flow to properly designed flashing and weep holes.

Integral water repellents do not change the appearance of the units.

Topical (surface) treatments are applied to the weather exposed side of the wall after the wall is in service.

WILL RAINBLOC® PREVENT ANY MOISTURE FROM ENTERING A MASONRY BUILDING?

RainBloc® is typically used in single-wythe masonry construction for additional protection to water ingress. Single-wythe masonry walls can provide the performance of cavity wall construction in a cost-effective manner.

RainBloc® is not a replacement for proper single-wythe wall design and construction. A complete water repellent system emphasizes proper masonry

design, details and implementation. Use of the RainBloc® system provides an effective barrier to water intrusion and water wicking into the masonry by allowing any intruded moisture to fall down the interior of the cores and exit at the flashing weeps.

However, even with the additional protection, designers of masonry walls must still expect and prepare for moisture to penetrate into the walls through defects, cracks or other means and incorporate water collection and draining details into the design. Proper flashing, weeps and movement joints designed and located appropriately to control cracking are essential. Of course it is also important for the mason contractor to follow the design specifications and drawings and apply good construction practices to their work.

IS MASONRY TREATED WITH RAINBLOC® BREATHABLE?

RainBloc® is not impervious to moisture and it does not form a film on the masonry surface. RainBloc® is not a vapor barrier, and the masonry remains breathable.

WHAT IS THE LIFE EXPECTANCY OF RAINBLOC®?

RainBloc® is designed to perform for the life of the masonry building.

CAN A POST APPLIED SEALER OR WATER REPELLENT BE APPLIED TO RAINBLOC® TREATED MASONRY?

Yes, there are no incompatibilities between RainBloc® and post applied sealers which are often used to pro-

vide additional protection in a “belt and suspenders” approach.

CAN PAINT BE APPLIED TO RAINBLOC® TREATED MASONRY?

RainBloc® typically does not change the “paintability” characteristics of masonry, and therefore if untreated masonry can be painted, the same will apply to RainBloc® treated units. Latex, acrylic latex, cementitious coatings and waterborne epoxies may all be used. Note that oil based paints (alkyls) are not recommended for any exterior applications and should be carefully tested before application in any masonry construction.

IS THERE A RAINBLOC® TREATMENT FOR MORTAR?

Yes, RainBloc® for Mortar is specifically designed for mortar applications, and contains additives to improve the workability and water repellency of the mortar. RainBloc® for Mortar does not affect the bond strength between the CMU and the mortar.

CAN RAINBLOC® FOR CMU AND RAINBLOC® FOR MORTAR ADMIXTURE BE INTERCHANGED WITH EACH OTHER?

No, their formulations are different and they cannot be interchanged.

CAN AN ACCELERATOR BE ADDED TO RAINBLOC® FOR MORTAR IF NEEDED DURING COLDER WEATHER?

Non-chloride accelerators may be used during winter months when faster set times are desired. Chloride accelerators are not recommended, as they can react with steel reinforcement and cause corrosion of the steel.

To use an accelerator, simply replace a portion of the mix water with the recommended dosage rate of non-chloride accelerator.

WHAT DOES IT MEAN TO BE RAINBLOC® CERTIFIED?

RainBloc® certified producers go through a rigorous certification process to ensure that performance of their Block conforms to RainBloc® standards for physical properties and water repellency. Certification must be renewed each year to ensure continued compliance.

HOW DO I FIND A RAINBLOC® PRODUCER?

Contact ACM Chemistries (770) 417 3490 or visit our website acmchem.com.

We hope that information presented here is helpful. It is based on data considered to be true and accurate, and reflects our best understanding and knowledge, presented for the user's consideration. We do not warrant results of action based on any of the information contained. No statement, recommendation or suggestion is intended to infringe on any patent or copyright.

acmchem.com

All Rights Reserved ACM Chemistries, Inc. 2015.

Customer Service (770) 417 3490

ACM Chemistries, Inc.
P.O. Box 920430 Norcross, GA 30071