

Technical datasheet 2

Design flexibility



It's easy to appreciate why aircrete masonry is such a popular form of construction, accounting for over 60% of all new housing starts in the UK.

Aircrete is so much more than just a structural building block, and has been developed for use in many applications, ranging from external and internal walls through to foundations, floors and rapid build systems. It is a versatile material that saves time and wastage, whilst its inherent acoustic and thermal resistance make it the ideal solution for cost-effective compliance with the energy and acoustic requirements of the Building Regulations for England and Wales.

At the same time it conforms to many of the guiding principles on sustainable development.

One of its many beneficial characteristics is its design flexibility, which is why it is such a popular choice with designers and architects as well as housebuilders and developers.

Aircrete products enable the designer and the developer to create almost any size, shape or living environment without compromise in terms of cost and technical ability.



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Aircrete products are available in a range of sizes and densities so that a huge variety of buildings can be created from small bungalows to town houses, flats and apartments. There are very few design limitations by using aircrete so the designer is free to create innovative or traditional buildings alike.

Aircrete is the ideal material for the construction of single-leaf external walls - lightweight, frost resistant and with excellent thermal performance. Single leaf construction is a rapid, low cost solution that gives a number of different design possibilities including tile hanging, render or decorative cladding.

Aircrete blocks provide structural stability, produce minimal wastage and can reduce the thickness of insulation required.

Aircrete allows on-the-spot changes to be made as the building process continues, including;

- Changes requested by customers when buying off-plan
- Changes that builders request prior to pre-completion
- Changes required in order to aid the selling process

These are not possible with factory made to-order off site systems.

Many builders and craftsmen are happier to work with aircrete as it is proven and familiar.

There is a plentiful supply of skilled tradesmen to build in aircrete and other masonry products, aircrete provides a more flexible process and allows overall build rates to be varied to match market demand without the commitment to order frames or kit well in advance.

Aircrete makes light work of building as it can be cut, drilled and chased using ordinary hand tools, making it an easier solution for bricklayers and finishing trades alike.

The aircrete thin layer system, often referred to as thin joint masonry, is being used as an alternative to the use of conventional mortar as it allows build times to be significantly reduced. In fact, taking lead times into account, aircrete construction is as quick as off-site methods, and using the thin layer system is actually faster.

Aircrete is non-combustible and is a simple and economical means of providing protection against the risk of fire. Due to its closed cell structure, which contains millions of tiny air pockets, the passage of moisture into the building is strongly resisted and aircrete offers remarkable protection against the damaging effects of frost, interstitial condensation and insect infestation.

For more information

This publication is only intended to be an outline guide to aircrete products. You are advised to contact respective APA members for more comprehensive technical support and guidance, and extensive technical literature covering every aspect of designing and working with aircrete products.



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