

Mortified By Inappropriate Mortar Use



The Master Window and Conservatory Installers Association Technical/Legal Column



Don Waterworth BSc (Hons) FCABE MEWI Chartered Building Engineer / Building Surveyor Expert Witness Accredited Mediator Founder of the MWICIA

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Take a look at the two attached photographs and you will readily note the mortar has not adhered to the PVC, notes our technical expert, Don Waterworth. Any experienced installer should know cement or lime based products i.e. mortar or plaster, does not adhere to PVC-U, PVC or wood.

There is no acceptable usage of mortar to seal windows or doors externally. The mortar simply will not adhere to the PVC-U and will split and pull away.

There will be those type of properties where a mortar fillet may be required by the customer to match in with the property, i.e. a Victorian property, however,



once the mortar fillet has cured, you will need to return to site and apply a low modulus silicone seal to the abutment joint between the mortar and the window or door frame.

There is never a situation where leaving a mortar fill against a PVC-U product is acceptable, as a final finish.

I was mortified when I saw this job supposedly from an experienced and reliable installer.

The level of workmanship shown in the attached photographs is still occurring in the window industry and should not be.

It matters not what standard you apply, the type of mortar fillet shown in the photographs will get you in trouble every time and will also not only annoy your customer but will ensure that you will need to return to site to finish the job properly.

Do it properly

Low modulus silicone seals (sometimes in conjunction with backing foam or expanding foam) are designed specifically to provide a pliable weather-proof and water tight seal and if applied correctly, will give years of trouble free service to your customer. **f**

