



5 Reasons why bricklaying costs should be cheaper with Timbercrete (per square metre of wall).

Timbercrete is approximately half the weight of fired clay or concrete. Density of Timbercrete = 1kg/Lt to 1.2kg/Lt. Compared with density of fired clay or concrete approximately 2.4kg/Lt.

As a result of the reduced weight, Timbercrete has decided to produce a brick range which is dimensionally larger than standard clay bricks. The reason for the increased size is to reduce the labour time and costs in constructing brick walls.

From an installation cost perspective, the logic is sound, so one can reasonably anticipate m² \$ saving. For the sake of the argument, the cost saving rationales model is based on Timbercrete's small series veneer brick measuring:

Brick size ~ 350mm long X 163 high X 100mm wide (nominal size).

Module or increment size ~ 360mm X 175mm.

*** Timbercrete Bricks used per m² ~ 15.8**

*** Standard clay Bricks used per m² ~ 48.5**

\$ per m² cost savings can be anticipated for the following reasons:-

1. Reduced mortar cost per m². @ 10.14 Lt of mortar mud per m² for Timbercrete bricks. Compared with 25.25 Lt of mortar mud per m² for standard clay bricks.
2. Reduced labour costs per m². There are only 15.8 labour movements per brick as compared to 48.5 labour movements for laying clay bricks.
3. Increased bricklaying construction speed, due to the larger size brick.
4. Reduced finishing costs per m² for cleaning and pointing. @ 8.4. Lineal metres of mortar joint ironing per m². Compared with 15.3 lineal metres of joint ironing for clay bricks.
5. Reduced labour requirements of at least 50% for the brickies labourer and increased productivity due to:
 - a. Less than half the number of mortar batches required.
 - b. Greater m² of wall area in each barrow load of bricks resulting in less time carting bricks around the site.
 - c. Half the lifting requirement (due Timbercrete being half the weight of clay) for loading scaffolding.
 - d. Resulting in the brickies labourer having more time available for; ironing joints, cleaning and pointing.

3 Indisputable facts:-

1. Timbercrete veneer brick walls save money on mortar costs.
2. Timbercrete veneer brick walls go up faster.
3. Timbercrete veneer brick walls require less mortar work per m².

Conclusion.

Timbercrete veneer brick walls are more cost-effective to construct per square metre than the clay brick counterpart. Therefore, one can expect that a fair and reasonable bricklayer reflect the above rationales in his quoting. If you are quoted more per m² than standard clay brick, you are paying too much.