

Let us point you in the right direction!

There are a number of different techniques and approaches when undertaking pointing, which when renovating brickwork is an absolutely crucial part of the process. Many people hold the mistaken belief that pointing begins and ends with cement mortar, and is a straightforward, functional procedure that contains no scope for enhancing the aesthetic value of the property.

At Mahon Brickwork we vehemently oppose this viewpoint.

Here at Mahon we have an avid interest in the history of London's architecture, we have revived and developed time-honoured building practices and actively sourced traditional materials that when combined with exceptional workmanship can produce **ASTONISHING RESULTS**.

To suit all budgets, we offer three different types of lime mortar pointing, all offering the same high standards of protection and weatherproofing.

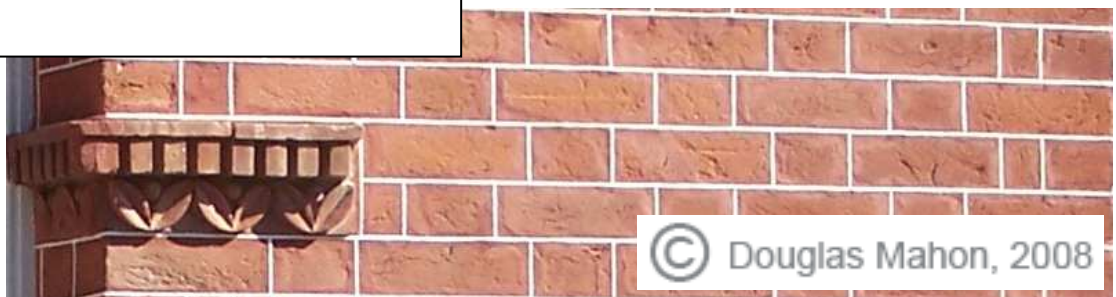
TUCK pointing; this is without question the most decorative and visually pleasing style and was the most common method used in house building in the Georgian, Victorian and Edwardian periods. For truly authentic restoration of older properties, **TUCK** pointing is desirable, as written in *London's Georgian Houses*, the architectural historian Andrew Byrne states that: *'the desire to reinstate the brickwork to as near its original appearance as possible is achievable by the TUCK method.'*



Tuck pointing is an Illusion, the idea of tuck is to give the impression that the brickwork is perfect. The joints are filled with a matching coloured mortar the large mortar joints are filled with a mortar colour similar to the brick background. Regardless of damaged brick edges or large mortar joints the brickwork is brought to a uniform colour. The technique is then to apply a lime putty on top of the mortar joints this lime putty is cut in a Ribbon style thus giving perfect symmetrical brick shapes .

A famous example of TUCK pointing is 10 Downing Street these once yellow bricks that have been pigmented black, a common restoration technique used pre brick cleaning the dark pigmentation was common because in most urban areas brick work was soiled by pollution. Brick cleaning techniques had not evolved so when restoration was undertaken a common technique was to colour the stopping mortar black so as to match with the dark brick but quite often brickwork was made darker by the restorer to camouflage restoration work.

TUCK pointing offers particularly IMPRESSIVE RESULTS on red brick buildings, but is suitable for any colour brickwork. As this process is the most time consuming and requires the very highest standards of workmanship it is the most expensive method we offer. For this reason, it is usually only considered for the front facades of buildings but it is advisable for arches and other protrusions.



Ribbon and tuck

Our most popular method of pointing is RIBBON or HALFTUCK, a similar technique to TUCK although not as labour intensive and subsequently a cheaper option.

RIBBON pointing is particularly effective with yellow coloured brickwork, although it can be applied to any colour brick and achieve EXCEPTIONAL RESULTS. We can also add pigment for desired colour of mortar.



Another option is FLUSH or PENNY ROLL highly recommended when there is a large area of pointing as it is the least labour intensive and when used with a lime mortar and brickwork is cleaned the natural colours that come through are absolutely delightful. Please note when making a decision about pointing consider cleaning the brickwork, if you decide that it is unnecessary to clean the brickwork, natural lime mortar has a very bright colour its not unusual for Mahon to add pigments to the mortar to tone the mortar colour down.

Once the brickwork has been prepared ready for pointing Mahon will provide sample panels for all pointing styles for the client to choose from. We do urge clients to visit previous works by Mahon which are sent with all quotes on job sheets.

Whatever your budget and whatever your preference, we can point you in the right direction.

