

Mortar Analysis Form



Please fill out and send the form below with your sample to ensure we have all the information we need to get started.

Contact Information	
Name of client:	
Name of contractor:	
Phone number:	
Email address:	
Site address:	
Analysis Information	
Sample shipping date:	
Reason for analysis: <i>E.g. listed building consent, material failure, etc.</i>	
The area the sample was taken: <i>E.g. gable wall, cornice trim etc.</i>	
Type and function of the material: <i>E.g. render, building mortar, etc.</i>	
Is the structure listed/scheduled?	
Is a mortar match required?	
Any other information to share?	

PLEASE POST THIS FORM & SAMPLES TO:

Cornish Lime
F.A.O LABORATORY
Brims Park, Old Callywith Road
Bodmin
PL31 2DZ

WHAT TO EXPECT:

Once our team receives your sample, we will confirm via email that it has been received. Please read the guidance on the following page for preparing and sending a sample.

Guidance for Mortar Sampling

Below are helpful guidelines outlining the sample requirements for analysing historic mortars, renders, and plasters. The quality of the sample greatly influences the depth of insights we can uncover, so obtaining the best quality sample possible can help maximise the information we gain.

INITIAL REQUIREMENTS FOR SAMPLING

When collecting a sample, we advise using methods and tools that cause as minimal damage to the sample as possible, as the state of the sample greatly influences the quality and quantity of information the analysis can provide. The appropriate tools to use will vary depending on the condition of the material. As general guidance, we advise carefully using hand tools, like a hammer and chisel, as this allows for greater control and precision. However, there may be occasions in which the use of power tools or core drilling is necessary. If so, proceed carefully to mitigate damage to the sample.

Ensure samples are labelled in a meaningful way to the person or company receiving the results. When packaging the sample, ensure this form and the contact details of anyone who requires the analysis results are included. Please see the Packaging and Shipping Instructions section below for important guidance on packaging samples.

SAMPLING A MORTAR

A minimum sample size of 43mm in diameter, or roughly the size and volume of a golf ball, is required with as minimal dust or loose rubble as possible. A few lumps of mortar can be supplied if a single solid piece is not achievable. Please note samples that are too small, rubbly or powdery will provide little to no indication of colour, texture, hardness, weathering, depth of carbonation, etc.

SAMPLING A RENDER OR PLASTER

A minimum sample size of 43mm in diameter, or roughly the volume of a golf ball, is required with as minimal dust or loose rubble as possible. A few pieces of render or plaster can be supplied if a single solid piece is not achievable. Ideally, the sample will consist of the total thickness of the render or plaster from the outer face to the substrate. A sample at this thickness can indicate layer build-up and the degree of weathering and carbonation at specific depths.

SAMPLING A DECORATIVE PLASTER

A minimum sample size of 193mm, or roughly the size of an average adult's hand, is required. Decorative plasters generally consist of thin and fragile layers, making collecting a sample challenging. If the plaster is too friable to remove from the surface in isolation, the plaster should be sampled still adhered to the backing coat. When in doubt, speak with the team for guidance.

SAMPLING FOR SALT TESTING

If soluble salt testing is required, ensure samples are not handled with bare hands, and that clean nitrile or latex gloves are used. Sweat from the skin can cause false positives if the sample is contaminated. Please provide two samples, one of the original mortar, render or plaster and one of any spalling dusty material on the surface or which might have fallen on the floor. Package both of these samples separately in air-tight polythene bags.

PACKAGING AND SHIPPING REQUIREMENTS

Carefully wrap the sample and place it in a clean, dry and sealable container. Tupperware-style containers are advised. If the initial moisture of the sample is a test requirement, ensure samples are packaged in sealed polythene bags. Ziplock-style bags are advised. Ensure to package the container with padding to prevent damage to the sample in transit. Ensure this form is included in your package.