

About VEE Brick (Thin Brick)

VEE Brick Product Line

Our Vee Brick product line is part of a growing trend to use thin brick in both traditional ceramic wall tile type installations and in all types of wall panel systems. This shift away from traditional brick (full bed depth) masonry is being driven by economics. The use of thin brick can provide tremendous cost savings. Foundations and structural members can be down-sized because of reduced weight. With many panel systems, installation labor can be reduced because panels can be made indoors, off the job site, without trained masons. Panel utilization shortens construction time and can eliminate scaffolding costs. Also, thin brick can be easily used for interior walls including back splashes where full brick would not be practical. In addition, buildings incorporating thin brick panels lend themselves to earthquake tolerant construction features. All of this is accomplished without giving up the rich look and dignity of traditional brick construction or the potential of dramatic architectural statement featuring the vivid natural colors of our Vee Brick product line.

Thin Brick Veneer Masonry

The use of thin brick veneer masonry has evolved over many years. Traditionally, thin brick have been installed in the same way as ceramic wall tile (i.e. on to a vertical substrate which could be masonry or interior or exterior stud wall - steel or wood). These types of installations continue to be used with the coursing of the veneer brick being set by a metal rack nailed to the wall, spacers or the rope method. Ceramic tile installation requirements should be followed for these types of installation.

Over the last ten years, thin veneer brick has been used in precast panels very successfully. These panels are made with thin brick being placed into a flexible rubber mat which normally is affixed to sturdy plywood to form the bottom of a precast panel form. Rebar is then placed into the form into which concrete is then poured, vibrated and allowed to set. When the rubber mat is removed, the panel has the same appearance as set in place masonry. The most important subtlety of precast panels is the flexibility of the rubber mat. The mat should be designed to accommodate thin brick which have normal variations in dimensions. This will eliminate the very costly process of grinding each brick to an exact size. In addition, architects have been concerned with thin brick popping out of precast panels because the panels are being used in mid or high-rise buildings and the thin brick is only 1/2" or 9/16" thick. Marion has addressed this issue by offering 15/16" thick Vee Brick which provides exceptional bonding of thin brick into a precast panel.

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Jobsite cast tilt up panels are made in the same way as precast panels except that form liners are made with less expensive disposable materials. As with precast panels, both Marion's 9/16" or 15/16" thick Vee Brick work well with liners that accept normal sizing variations.

Since the early 1970's, numerous thin brick wall panel systems have been developed utilizing many different types of materials. Systems are now available with panels made from metal, insulation foam, cementitious board, masonite, plywood and composite board. Most of these systems were developed primarily for residential use both new construction and especially for remodeling. Owners, architects, and builders should carefully select a system which will work best for each project.

Marion's Vee Brick can be used in all of the above described methods and is especially well suited for precast panels.

For information on availability and pricing, contact a BrickAmerica sales representative Toll Free at 1-866-866-2529 or email Sales@BrickAmerica.com