

Textures and Surfaces of Brick



EXTRUDED:

Characteristically extruded brick are uniform with sharp, angular edges and they may have core holes. Extruded brick are made by forcing, under high pressure, a shale, clay and water mixture through a mold. A brick shaped column is formed then sliced with a wire into individual brick. Various textures such as scraping, scratching or sanding may be applied prior to cutting.



MOLDED:

Characteristics of a molded brick are textures that are sandy and edges that are irregular and not sharp. Molded brick are made when a combination of clay, shale and water are dropped into a brick shaped mold box that has been coated with sand. The box is bumped and vibrated, then dumped in preparation for kiln firing. The sand is used to help release the brick from the mold and also influences the finishes and color of the brick.



HANDMADE:

Characteristics of handmade brick are irregular shapes where no two brick are alike. Each brick is uniquely shaped and textured giving them an "old world" look. Handmade brick are made by forcing material through an extruder making a long continuous rectangular shape that is rough cut into small chunks. The "handmade" process starts when these chunks are individually picked up by a worker, rolled in sand and thrown into pre-sanded brick shaped wooden molds, also known as "mud throwing". The molds continue along being bumped and vibrated, excess material is removed, and then they are dumped in preparation for kiln firing.



TUMBLED:

Characteristics of tumbled brick are similar to a "used" brick look. The surfaces of the brick will show irregular and weathered textures and the edges are softened and worn with an appeal that is old and charming. Tumbled brick are made as a result of physically tumbling fired brick or by applying different mechanical processes that integrate different textures and patterns onto the pre-fired, extruded clay mixture.