

A collage of paint cans in various colors (red, orange, yellow, blue) on the left, and a yellow building with blue window frames on the right.

Silicate Products

With a well-established heritage, **Volvox Silicate Masonry Products** provide long-lasting performance with outstanding environmental benefits. Ideal for exterior use, the products permeate the underlying masonry material and combine with it to form an insoluble microcrystalline structure. This durable structure allows the masonry to breathe by allowing the free egress of vapour whilst preventing water ingress.

Volvox Silicate Masonry Products are a durable alternative to limewash. They can benefit the building fabric and are more environmentally friendly than conventional masonry paints. Owing to its high alkalinity and breathability the system also helps to prevent mould and algae growth.

SILICATE PRIMER

SILICATE PRIMER is a clear liquid for priming outdoor absorbent surfaces prior to applying **Silicate Masonry Paint**. It is the perfect stabiliser for loose and powdery exterior mineral-based surfaces and is ideal for diluting **Silicate Masonry Paint**. Allow approximately 200ml per square metre, depending on absorbency and 12 hours drying time.

Sizes and Product Codes

10 litres 1-1603

Ingredients:

Water, stabilised sodium tetra-silicate, styrene stabiliser.

SILICATE MASONRY PAINT

SILICATE MASONRY PAINT is a white, weather-resistant and water repellent masonry paint for exterior mineral surfaces (e.g. stone, concrete, pebble dash, plaster). Allow approximately 200ml per square metre. After priming with **Silicate Primer** apply an initial coat of **Silicate Masonry Paint** diluted with up to 10% **Silicate Primer**. A second undiluted coat of **Silicate Masonry Paint** may be applied after about 4 hours dependent on temperature.

Sizes and Product Codes

10 litres 1-1703

Ingredients:

Water, sodium tetra-silicate, kaolin, calcium carbonate, styrene stabiliser, ammonium salt, titanium dioxide, common salt (sodium chloride).

When dry, **Silicate Masonry Paint** gives a 'soft' matt finish and is breathable. Available in colours for large order quantities - ask your local stockist for details - it is washable and does not yellow with time. It is fully compatible with the following earthBorn pigments to create warm colours in harmony with the environment.

It can also be used with most other earthBorn pigments but special usage instructions may apply, so consult us, or your local stockist, for advice.



Why Use Silicate Masonry Products?

Listed below are some important properties of our masonry products and a performance comparison with other masonry coatings. We are sure you'll agree that our Silicate Products have the durability and versatility demanded by today's building specifications!

Property	Traditional Limewash	Conventional Masonry Paint *	Silicate Masonry Paint
Maintenance frequency**	2-3 years	5-15 years	Up to 15 years
Effect of weathering**	Weathers back slowly to substrate	May crack and peel	Minimal
Suitable surfaces for coating	Limeplaster and most permeable, mineral surfaces	Most clean, stable surfaces	All permeable, mineral surfaces e.g. brick, stone & limeplaster****
Suitability for cementitious renders	Poor	Good	Good
Typical coats required	3-5 coats	1 primer + 2 coats	1 primer + 2 coats
Application method	Roller or brush	Roller/brush/spray	Roller/brush/spray
Breathability	Excellent	Very poor/poor	Excellent
Moisture resistance	Poor	Excellent	Excellent
Resistance to mould/algae	Good (due to natural alkalinity of product)	Poor/good (depends on chemical algicides)	Good (due to natural alkalinity of product)
Colour availability	Limited	Excellent	Good
Contains acrylics/acrylic softeners***	No	Yes (up to 40%)	Very low (5%)
VOC content***	0%	Up to 8%	Less than 1%
Applicator health risks*****	High (caustic)	Medium (VOC and fungicide content)	Low (silicate primer similar risk to limewash)
Appearance	Mottled/varied	Flat, uniform	Vibrant, delicate texture
Suitability for restoration work and historic buildings	Traditional	Consideration needs to be given to appearance and lack of breathability	Durable alternative to limewash

* Information for Conventional Masonry Paints is indicative of typical products and is not specific to any brand. Performance may vary from brand to brand.

** Dependent on site/environmental conditions and preparation.

*** Acrylic softeners and VOCs are widely accepted as being damaging to the environment and contributing to global warming. Acrylics reduce the breathability of the coating.

**** Some clay surfaces may require special treatment.

***** Always consult manufacturers' Health & Safety Data Sheets for fuller information.



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