

The removal of pebbledash is often a cause of concern and confusion for the homeowner; a typical view is that it cannot be removed without irreversibly damaging the brickwork.

Mahon Brickwork, not only remove the offending pebbledash but also RENOVA TE and REPOINT the underlying brickwork to greatly improve the appearance of the property and therefore boost its value.

If you wish to have a quote, we would ask for you to send us relevant photographs of the property and an image of an adjacent property without pebbledash thus indicating brick colour and brick features, enabling us to evaluate the works and a quote is prepared. Although we can visit if you are unable to supply photograph's.

A common question at this point is 'is the pebbledash there for a reason? Such as to cover structural damage or alterations?' In our experience we find this not to be the case, pebbledash was mostly used as a purely cosmetic procedure, a building fad that gained popularity during the 1970s and 1980s. In any case we will carefully examine the building as well as neighbouring properties to look for any irregularities or signs of renovation. Factors such as the size of window openings may well highlight structural alterations. In almost all of the properties we have encountered the pebbledash has been nothing more than a misguided cosmetic measure.

Once the work has started, the first step is the erection of scaffolding, upon which protective plastic sheeting is attached to prevent the dust and debris from affecting the surrounding area. This is followed by the removal or adjustment of exterior pipes or cables to provide easy access to the exterior wall. Upon completion of the work all pipes and cable will be reattached. If any other work is being undertaken on the property at the time we are happy to liaise with other individuals or contractors.

Various methods are utilised to remove the pebbledash itself once it has been removed the brick is brought to an even surface.

Where necessary damaged bricks are replaced with matching reclaimed bricks. It is impossible to accurately estimate how many bricks will need to be replaced before the pebbledash has been removed. In each quote a set amount of bricks will be included. Normally 30 if additional bricks are required they will be charged for individually.

Once the brickwork repairs are complete we rake out mortar joints and re point brickwork with natural lime mortar, once again in keeping with the historical integrity of the property, we do not use cement in our bricklaying mortar nor our pointing mortars on lime mortar buildings .

# 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.

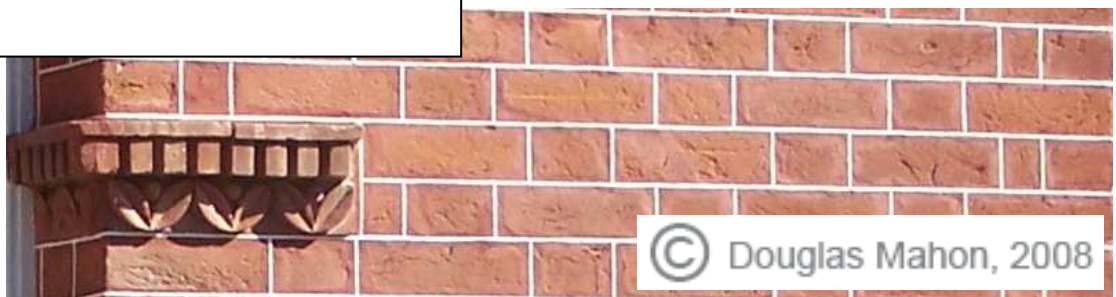
**TUCK** pointing; this is without question the most decorative and visually pleasing style and was the most common method used in house building in the Georgian, Victorian and Edwardian periods. For truly authentic restoration of older properties, **TUCK** pointing is desirable, as written in *London's 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.

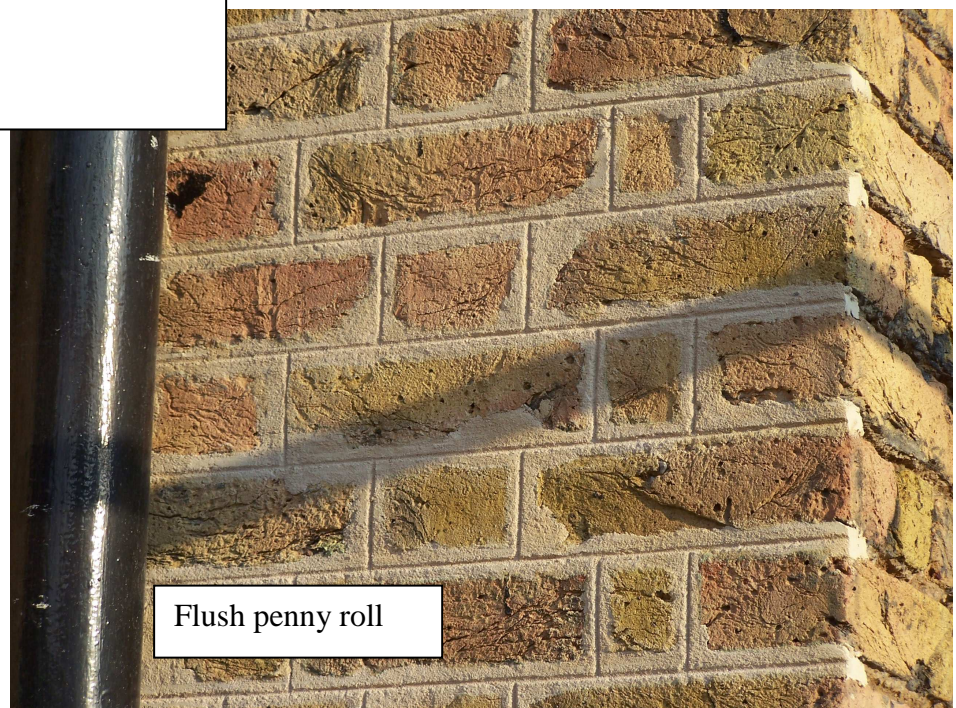
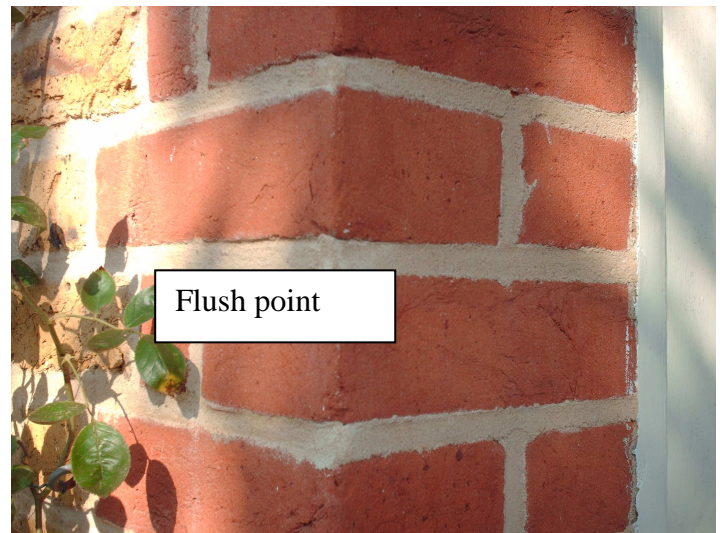
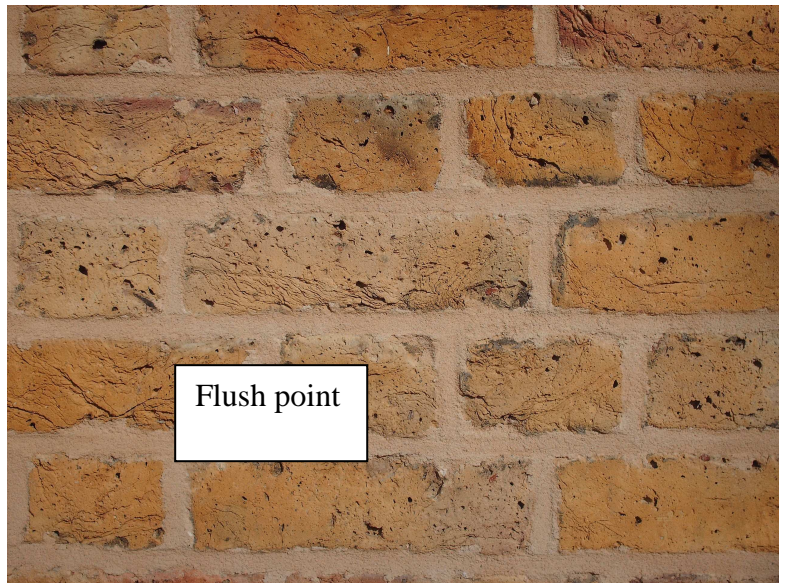




Another option is FLUSH or PENNY ROLL highly recommended when there is a large area of pointing as it is the least labour intensive and when used with a lime mortar and brickwork is cleaned the natural colours that come through are absolutely delightful. Please note when making a decision about pointing 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.



As with the removal of pebbledash, the removal of unwanted or unsightly paint is an area in which Mahon Brickwork specialises.

Using specific techniques and materials paint can be removed effectively to reveal the original underlying brickwork. At this stage REPOINTING is undertaken to greatly improve the appearance of the property and therefore boost its value.

As with the majority of our work, once CONTACT has been made we will encourage you to view some properties situated locally to you that we have worked on. If this is inconvenient, we will happily to send you some IMAGES of work related to your request.

If you wish to continue with a quote, for your convenience, we would ask for you to send us relevant photographs of the property, enabling us to evaluate the building. If need be a site visit is arranged.

If the quote is agreeable with you and you would like to proceed with Mahon we will forward our Terms and conditions if they meet your approval, we ask you to confirm in writing ,or by email that you would like to go ahead with works, we can then set a date for commencement of works.

Once the work has started, the first step is the erection of scaffolding, upon which a protective plastic sheet is attached to prevent the dust and debris from affecting the surrounding area. If any other work is being undertaken on the property at the time we are happy to liaise with other individuals or contractors.

The actual paint is removed using a combination of jet washers and cleaning agents, specifically manufactured to remove the offending paint without damaging or discolouring the brickwork. Brickwork durability of bricks does vary.

The London Edwardian builders commonly used soft red facing bricks for front facades these vary immensely in quality. Paint is sometimes a disguise for failed brick surfaces known as spelling, generally there is some brick repair to paint removal but not always. Mahon actively sources matching size and colour bricks for any repairs.

At Mahon we have an extensive list of all past jobs which we forward with all quotes.

Once the paint is removed and the bricks are prepared we will remove all of the existing mortar and replace it with natural lime mortar, once again in keeping with the historical integrity of the property, we do not use cement.

At this stage samples of pointing are created for the customer to choose from.  
Pointing begins.

Once pointing is complete all cables and down pipes fixed neatly back in place.  
And job is left clean and tidy.



Brick cleaning can be a joy to do combined with re pointing the colour palette that comes through on the old bricks is fantastic to see.

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