

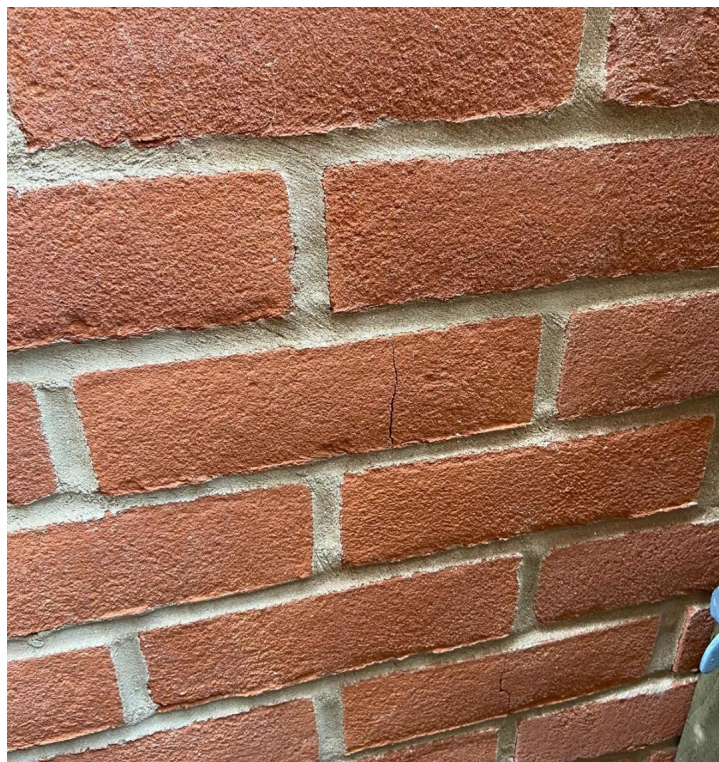
Wienerberger Technical Guidance

HAIRLINE CRACKING AND CRAZING

The appearance of clay bricks varies greatly due to the clay body types used and the manufacturing process employed. Hairline cracking and crazing of the brick face is a characteristic feature in certain brick types.

Hairline cracking and crazing can occasionally occur within the manufacturing process when clay units retain moisture content between the drying and firing stages. The intensity of heat in the kiln causes a rapid shrinkage leading to cracking of the outer body.

All clay bricks absorb water to a greater or lesser extent, depending on the nature of the raw material, the manufacturing process and the resultant internal pore structure of the unit. It is the last characteristic of the finished product which, under freezing conditions, accommodates the expansion of water into ice without causing damage or lack of structural integrity.



Hairline Cracking

BSI document PAS 70 was introduced to offer guidance on aesthetic issues in relation to clay bricks. It recommends that brickwork should be viewed at a normal viewing distance of 3 metres, as indicated on to avoid unnecessary close scrutiny of individual bricks.

Any questionable bricks should be compared to the site reference panel which is constructed to confirm the appearance of the bricks to be provided for the duration of the building contract, alongside demonstrating an agreed standard of workmanship.

Bricks that are felt to be outside of those represented in the reference panel should be put to one side for inspection by the product manufacturer.



Crazing