



MASONRY & IMPACT RESISTANCE

International Masonry Institute

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One of a building's most basic functions is to protect its inhabitants and contents, and masonry does it well.

Since masonry materials like brick, concrete block and stone are strong and durable, masonry structures tend to provide more protection against the elements, accidental damage or attack.

An Easy Choice for Hardworking Buildings

The ability to resist impact makes masonry a practical choice for buildings subject to hard use. It can stand up to the minor impact from forklifts or delivery trucks in warehouses, convention centers, big box retail stores and industrial facilities. For correctional facilities, schools and sports arenas, it adds an extra measure of durability and security.



The All-Weather Solution

When it comes to withstanding the impact of wind-driven debris during tornadoes, hurricanes and other severe weather events, masonry performs better than other materials in all types of buildings.

Blast Resistance

Finally, masonry can provide blast resistance in the event of terrorist attacks or accidental explosions. The investigation of building performance following the World Trade Center attack showed that masonry helped prevent greater destruction near the twin towers. Older buildings with masonry components generally performed better than newer ones with lightweight curtain walls. Masonry provided fireproofing and structural redundancy, absorbing impact energy to minimize damage.

Masonry and Impact Resistance Tip

Where impact resistance is a top concern, masonry can be reinforced, solidly grouted and detailed to enhance that quality. The arching action inherent in masonry helps transfer and support loads when a wall is breached or damaged, thereby limiting impact damage and facilitating repairs.