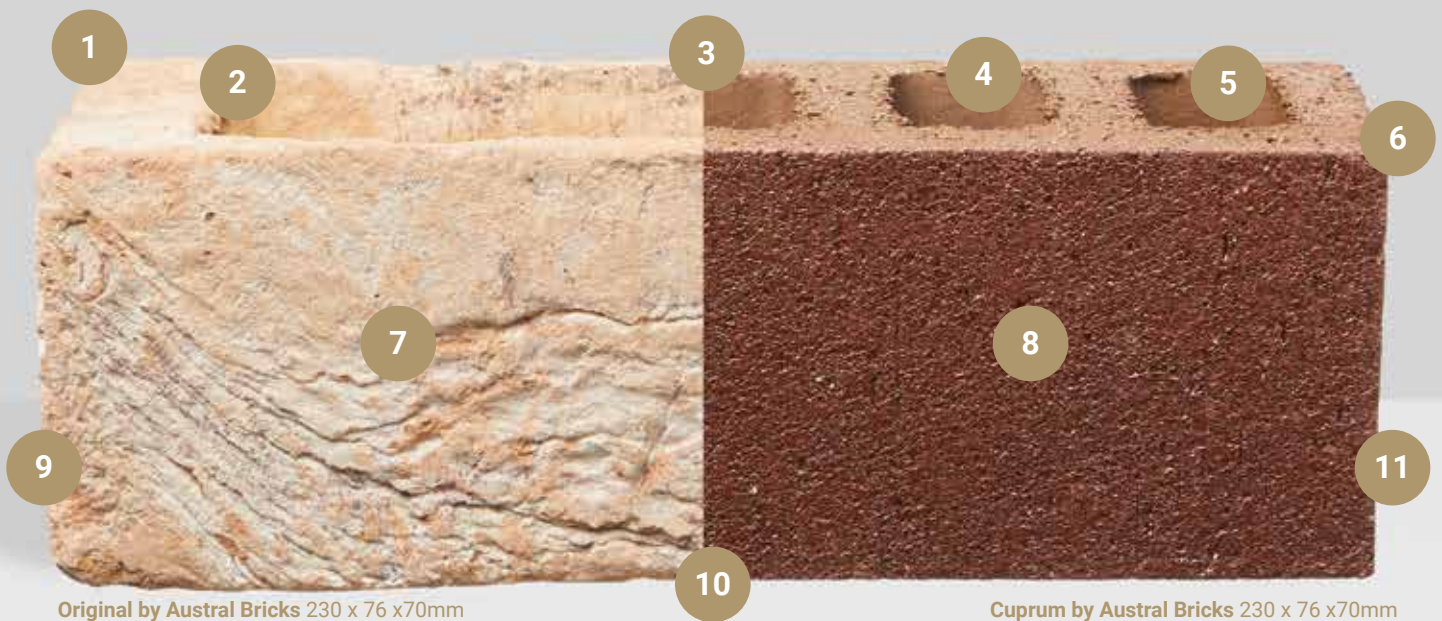


Brick basics

Clay bricks are like people; no two bricks are the same and nothing beats seeing a physical sample, in fact we insist you do. Here's a quick guide to what makes a brick.



Original by Austral Bricks 230 x 76 x70mm

Cuprum by Austral Bricks 230 x 76 x70mm

1. **Clay bricks** are made from a combination of natural clay bearing soils, minerals and lime.
2. The indentation in the middle of a **pressed clay brick** is called a **frog**.
3. Clay bricks are either **pressed** or **extruded**.
4. **Mortar** goes into the frog and core holes.
5. **Extruded clay bricks** are manufactured with holes to lighten the brick, ensuring when fired, they cook evenly. This also allows for improved bond strength and greater earthquake resistance.
6. **Standard brick depth** is 70mm up to 110mm in NZ.
7. A **colour through brick** is a clay brick that is the same colour through the entire brick body; from face to back.
8. A **vitreous coating** is when a clay brick has a face colour different to the colour of the brick body. This is achieved by the application of a separate clay coating during the manufacturing process. The vitreous coating is fired in for life.
9. **Standard brick height** in NZ is 76mm. We also supply clay bricks that are 40mm, 50mm, 55mm, 119mm and 162mm in height.
10. Clay bricks have a front and a back, though some bricks have two faces (both sides can be used). The front is called the **face** or **stretcher**.
11. **Standard brick length** is 230mm in NZ and varies with trends. Our Corso range by San Selmo features bricks that are 500mm long!

Clay bricks don't need paint, sealing or any other treatments to maintain their aesthetics and durability. The colour is fired into the bricks so it lasts a lifetime and will not fade. They are **cost effective** and **low maintenance**.

Brick insulates in a way most materials do not. By following **energy efficient** design principles and combining bricks with insulation, your home will keep warm in winter and cool in summer, so you'll love coming home.

Clay bricks are a **sustainable building option**. Made from organic minerals found in naturally abundant sources

of clay; clay brick's long-lasting life cycle offers ongoing environmental and health benefits. Durable, re-usable, free from contaminants and naturally resistant to pests or fire, clay brick is safe to live in, making it the ultimate material in responsible and economical home building design.

Clay bricks are fully reusable. They are one of the very few materials that can be reused (not just recycled) with all their original qualities intact. And if they are consigned to land fill, clay bricks are chemically inert and can't pollute groundwater or contaminate soil.