

Unit Type	Minimum Net Area Compressive Strength		Water Absorption (By Weight)	Moisture Content (By Weight)	Minimum Modulus Of Rupture	
	Average of Five Tests	Individual Unit			Average of Five Tests	Individual Unit
Unburned clay masonry	300	250	2.5%	4%	50	35

**Figure 3-34** Physical requirements for adobe masonry units. (From *UBC Standard 21-1, ICBO, 1994.*)

### 3.5.3 Adobe Mortar

Although adobe can be laid with a portland cement–lime mortar, it is more common to use an adobe mortar made from the same soil mix as the units. When laid with adobe mortar, a wall that is subjected to cracking stresses will crack monolithically through the units. When laid with a traditional masonry mortar, the same wall will crack at the mortar joints. Maximum aggregate size in adobe mortar should be  $\frac{1}{4}$  in., and the mortar should be thoroughly soaked and mixed to prevent clay balling.

