



Designation: **C279—17** **C279 – 23**

Standard Specification for Chemical-Resistant Masonry Units¹

This standard is issued under the fixed designation C279; the number immediately following the designation indicates the year of original adoption or, in the case of revision, the year of last revision. A number in parentheses indicates the year of last reappraisal. A superscript epsilon (ϵ) indicates an editorial change since the last revision or reappraisal.

1. Scope*

1.1 This specification covers solid, kiln fired brick and tile made from clay, shale, or mixtures thereof, suitable for indoor and outdoor use in masonry construction subjected to chemical environments (see Terminology **C1232**).

1.2 The brick and tile covered herein are intended for use in chemical environments where resistance to thermal shock may be a consideration. The brick and tile are normally used with chemical-resistant mortars.

1.3 The values stated in inch-pound units are to be regarded as standard. The values given in parentheses are mathematical conversions to SI units that are provided for information only and are not considered standard.

1.4 *This standard does not purport to address all of the safety concerns, if any, associated with its use. It is the responsibility of the user of this standard to establish appropriate safety and health, safety, health, and environmental practices and determine the applicability of regulatory limitations prior to use.*

1.5 *This international standard was developed in accordance with internationally recognized principles on standardization established in the Decision on Principles for the Development of International Standards, Guides and Recommendations issued by the World Trade Organization Technical Barriers to Trade (TBT) Committee.*

<https://standards.iteh.ai/catalog/standards/sist/57139330-57f4-40cc-85da-996538952c19/astm-c279-23>

2. Referenced Documents

2.1 ASTM Standards:²

C20 Test Methods for Apparent Porosity, Water Absorption, Apparent Specific Gravity, and Bulk Density of Burned Refractory Brick and Shapes by Boiling Water

C67C67/C67M Test Methods for Sampling and Testing Brick and Structural Clay Tile

C1232 Terminology for Masonry

E11 Specification for Woven Wire Test Sieve Cloth and Test Sieves

3. Terminology

3.1 *Definitions*—For definitions relating to chemical-resistant masonry units, refer to Terminology **C1232**.

¹ This specification is under the jurisdiction of ASTM Committee **C15** on Manufactured Masonry Units and is the direct responsibility of Subcommittee **C15.02** on Brick and Structural Clay Tile.

Current edition approved June 1, 2017; June 1, 2023. Published July 2017; June 2023. Originally approved in 1951. Last previous edition approved in 2013 as **C279—13a**; **C279 – 17**. DOI: [10.1520/C0279-17.10.1520/C0279-23](https://doi.org/10.1520/C0279-17.10.1520/C0279-23).

² For referenced ASTM standards, visit the ASTM website, www.astm.org, or contact ASTM Customer Service at service@astm.org. For *Annual Book of ASTM Standards* volume information, refer to the standard's Document Summary page on the ASTM website.

*A Summary of Changes section appears at the end of this standard

4. Classification

4.1 The physical and chemical properties of brick and tile differ from supplier to supplier, mainly because their composition is determined by the source of raw materials. Regardless of the differences, brick and tile are considered to be one of three types and one of two classes as follows:

4.1.1 *Type I*—For use where low absorption and high acid resistance are not major factors.

4.1.2 *Type II*—For use where lower absorption and higher acid resistance are required.

4.1.3 *Type III*—For use where minimum absorption and maximum acid resistance are required.

NOTE 1—*Types I, II, and III* may not differ significantly in thermal shock resistance. The suitability of a given brick, for a particular application should be determined at the time of purchase by agreement between the purchaser and the supplier.

NOTE 2—*Types I and III* were formerly designated Type “H” and “L” respectively.

4.1.4 *Class S*—For use in standard applications.

4.1.5 *Class X*—For use where a higher degree of precision and lower permissible variation in size than that permitted for Class S is required.

5. Physical Properties and Chemical Resistance Requirements

5.1 *Strength*—The brick and tile when tested in accordance with Test Methods [E67C67/C67M](#) shall conform to the requirements for modulus of rupture (flexural strength) for the type specified, as prescribed in [Table 1](#).

5.2 *Water Absorption*—The brick and tile when tested in accordance with Test Methods [C20](#) shall conform to the requirements for water absorption (based on the 2 h boil) for the type specified, as prescribed in [Table 1](#).

5.3 *Sulfuric Acid Solubility*—When tested in accordance with [Section 8](#), the brick and tile shall conform to the requirements for sulfuric acid solubility for the type specified, as prescribed in [Table 1](#).

6. Dimensions and Permissible Variations

6.1 *Sizes*—The sizes of the brick and tile shall be as specified by the purchaser. The length, width, and depth measurements of the brick or tile shall be within $\pm 3\%$ of the specified dimensions for Class S units and within $\pm 1.5\%$ of the specified dimensions for Class X units.

6.2 *Warpage*—The brick and tile shall conform to the requirements as shown in [Table 2](#).

7. Finish and Appearance

7.1 *Surface Textures*—Brick or tile surfaces are often textured in order to promote better bonding. Texturing is accomplished by scoring, wire cutting, matting, or other means consistent with a manufacturer’s process. If texturing is done, the protrusion or indentation shall not exceed $\frac{1}{8}$ in. (3 mm) in depth.

TABLE 1 Physical Properties and Chemical Resistance Requirements for Brick and Tile

Designation	Modulus of Rupture (Brick or Tile Flat- wise) min. psi (MPa)		Water Absorption Maximum % by 2 h Boiling Test		H ₂ SO ₄ Solubility Maximum % Weight Loss
	Average of 5 Brick or Tile Low Individual		Average of 5 Brick or Tile High Individual		Average of 5 Brick or Tile
Type I	1250 (8.6)	1000 (6.9)	6.0	7.0	20
Type II	1250 (8.6)	1000 (6.9)	4.0	5.0	12
Type III	1250 (8.6)	1000 (6.9)	1.0	1.5	8

TABLE 2 Tolerances on Warpage

Minimum Face Dimensions, inches (mm)	Maximum Permissible Warpage, inches (mm)	
	Class S	Class X
8 (203) and under	3/32 (2.4)	3/64 (1.2)
over 8 to 12 (203 to 305), incl	1/8 (3.2)	1/16 (1.6)
over 12 to 16 (305 to 406), incl	5/32 (4.0)	5/64 (2.0)

7.2 The brick and tile shall be free of open surface laminations or cracks which would impair the performance of the construction.

NOTE 3—Open laminations or cracks within the brick or tile observed in the brick or tile cut or broken during testing, should be noted with their size and number indicated as part of the test report. If internal open laminations or cracks, or both, are reported, the purchaser shall determine the suitability of such brick or tile for his application.

7.3 *Black Heart*—Brick or tile when broken may have a dark area that has a steely appearance and is sharply delineated from the surrounding normal color of the brick. It is known as *black heart* or *black core*. Black heart is generally the result of the reduction of iron minerals during the firing process. Its presence, regardless of size, in brick or tile which otherwise meet the physical and chemical requirements of this specification, shall not be cause for rejection.

8. Sulfuric Acid Solubility Test

8.1 *Apparatus:*

8.1.1 *Crusher*, jaw-type.

8.1.2 *Sieves*, 1/4-in. (6.3-mm) and No. 4 (4.75-mm) sieves (equivalent to 3-mesh and 4-mesh sieves, respectively, in the Tyler series), conforming to Specification E11.

8.1.3 *Mechanical Shaking Device*, producing a lateral and vertical motion of the sieve, accompanied by a jarring action so as to keep the sample moving continuously over the surface of the sieve.

8.1.4 *Drying Oven*.

8.1.5 *Analytical Balance and Weights*, 0.01-g sensitivity.

8.1.6 *Desiccator*.

8.1.7 *Erlenmeyer Flask*, 750-mL, of heat-resistant and chemically resistant glass.

8.1.8 *Water-Cooled Condenser*.

8.1.9 *Hot Plate*.

8.1.10 *Fritted-Glass Funnel*, fine porosity.

8.1.11 *Suction Pump*.

8.2 *Preparation of Sample*—Prepare the sample from at least five masonry units selected in accordance with Test Methods C67C67/C67M. Remove and discard the skin surface from a quarter of each unit selected and crush the remaining pieces in a jaw-type crusher, with the jaws set so that the grain size of the product ranges from material retained on a 1/4-in. (6.3-mm) sieve to material passing a No. 4 (4.75-mm) sieve. Reduce this material either by mixing and quartering or by a mechanical splitter to approximately a 1000-g sample, and screen in a mechanical shaking device for 15 min, using the No. 3 (6.75-mm) and No. 4 (4.75-mm) sieves. Thoroughly mix the portion of the material passing the No. 3 (6.75-mm) sieve and remaining on the No. 4 (4.75-mm) sieve (Note 4), and then quarter down to obtain two 50-g samples. Dry these samples in a drying oven at 221 to 239°F (105 to 115°C) for at least 16 h, and then cool in a desiccator.