OLD WORLD CONCRETES

BALUSTRADING – PRODUCT INFORMATION AND INSTALLATION GUIDELINES

1. **Product specifications**
   - Balusters are manufactured from 25 MPa reinforced concrete.
   - Reinforcing extends approximately 80 – 100 mm from the bottom of each baluster.
2. **Baluster spacing and positioning**
   - Allow for 4 – 5 balusters per metre, depending on the height and thickness of the baluster and the overall visual symmetry of the finished installation.
   - Municipal requirements must be consulted in all cases, particularly regarding safety.
   - When a purpose-made balustrade plinth is used, the position of each baluster is predetermined by holes cast into the plinth.
   - Where no plinth is used, the baluster positions must be set out and the fixing holes drilled manually.
3. **Fixing and installation of balusters**
   - Fix balusters using a mixture of cementitious tile adhesive and river sand in equal parts.
   - Use sufficient adhesive to fill the fixing hole and cover the area at the base of each baluster.
   - Align each baluster to a line at the base and use a fishline strung between the first and last balusters of the particular run to maintain alignment at the top.
   - Plumb each baluster individually, using wooden wedges where necessary.
   - Allow the adhesive to strengthen before installing the coping.
4. **Fixing and installation of coping**
   - Fix the coping using the same adhesive mixture as for the balusters.
   - Apply sufficient adhesive to cover the tops of all the balusters making contact with the coping, as well as the end face of the coping.
   - Allow a joint of 5 – 10 mm between coping lengths.
   - Use a fishline to ensure a neat, straight finish. Where applicable, establish two corners first, then string the fishline and work towards one end.
   - One coping length will require cutting and should be positioned one full coping length away from the end of the run. In some cases, a very short cut length will be necessary.
   - If the short cut length is not fully supported by two balusters, it must be discarded. Cut two lengths instead, distributing the short section between them to ensure adequate support.
5. **Additional fixing for long or critical runs**
   - When installing long, straight runs or working in critical areas, alternate coping lengths should be drilled and secured using a single steel pin and epoxy into the top of a baluster.

Disclaimer
The above information is intended as a guide to the correct installation of precast concrete balustrading. Old World Concretes accepts no responsibility for installations not undertaken by its own representatives.