



The brick manufacturing process often includes materials containing lime. Measures are taken to minimize the lime present in brick bodies, but it is impossible to completely remove due to the nature of the raw materials and some of the oxides and coatings used to effect certain colors and textures. Occasionally larger particles of lime make it into the brick. If not fully dissolved in the clay during firing, some small pieces of lime may turn into quicklime. When pieces like this are located near the face of the brick they can result in lime pops. This happens because the lime is exposed to moisture and expands. This expansion can exert enough force to break small portions off the face of the brick.

Lime pops are usually small and not visible within the ASTM standard viewing range. They affect only parts of the surface area of the brick. Our experience indicates that any popping that is going to occur will happen during the first year the brick are in the wall as wetting and weathering of the walls will dissolve the lime spots and prevent further popping. If further popping does appear to occur after six months, it is usually caused by a loosening of particles which has already occurred and come off later in the weathering process. No physical or structural damage to the brick itself has been known to occur in General Shale Brick. Lime pops are a purely aesthetic issue and do not impact the durability or structural integrity of the brick.



Lime Pops

