Some Adobe yards will sell you their Adobe mortar mix as a convenience, and even deliver it to you on an 18 wheeler trailer along with the blocks. But if the building site is far away from the Adobe facility, many builders prefer to locate a local soil for mud mortar to reduce costs.

Ordinary use and precautions
A few hyper-allergic individuals will chose to not use asphaltic emulsions, as they may be sensitive to some oil-based products. The emulsion is safe for use by the average person who respects accepted cautions about eye protection, use and clean up. A safety data sheet is available from the supplier.

If a splash of the emulsion falls on your hands, arms, etc., it will dissolve or wash off with water as long as the material has not dried on your skin. However, once it dries, it will become quite water resistant, requiring soap or other hand-cleaning "gunk" for removal. If it gets into the fabric of your clothing, it will tend to dry faster and is harder to remove. Never wear fine or favorite clothing or shoes when using an asphaltic emulsion, just as you would not don your best shirt for a house painting job.

On Adobe construction sites, restrict the area for emulsion use to a specific location. This will minimize "splashes" of emulsion materials on the ground around the building site. If this caution is not observed, a crewmember may step in the random spill and then track emulsion onto rugs, car interiors, etc. A charged water hose, a few clean rags, clean 5-gallon buckets for clear water, hand soap and cleaning gunk are handy to have at the mixing location. Water will clean up containers, keeping emulsion from building up in them but do the cleaning before the emulsion dries Safety glasses or at last ordinary dark glasses are a must for eye protection.

Of course emulsions and any on-site hazards must be kept away from children and the unwary. As a rule, children, including younger teenagers, are not allowed on the building site without adult supervision.

Containers: Avoid freezing or long periods of sitting
Cans or barrels of emulsion should not be left outdoors during freezing weather. If the emulsion freezes, it will separate in the bucket and will be spoiled. Containers of emulsion should not be allowed to "sit" for long periods of time (such as many weeks) on the site. Over time, the emulsion may stratify. A common habit is for crewmembers to shake or rock emulsion containers side to side occasionally. Make sure lids are tight before doing this. A sturdy hand-dolly is handy for moving containers about. Safety first.

How asphaltic emulsion affects soil colors
Emulsions roughly resemble chocolate syrup in color and viscosity, but do have an oil odor. But because not much of them is needed to do the job, the odor disappears in the greater mass of Adobe material.

Emulsion-stabilized Adobe block will give the wall a slightly darker cast. However, the casual observer will not know the wall has emulsion in it unless told, because the difference in value (light to dark) is not significant. The point here is that soil colors vary greatly in value and color anyway. Adobe soils are often considered to be a gray-tan color, but can be light or dark in brown, pink, yellow, red, etc.