

# BUILDING MATERIALS

## # Civil Engineering Materials:

The materials used in civil construction or used to produce other materials for civil construction is called civil engineering materials.

### X) TYPES:

#### A): Depending upon Existence:

i) Natural construction materials:

→ formed by natural process

Eg: stone, gravel, etc.

ii) Man-made construction materials:

→ formed after manual processing during manufacturing.

Eg: steel, bricks, etc.

#### B): Depending upon Usage:

i) Structural materials

→ bricks, stones, steel, sand, etc.

ii) Aesthetic materials

Paints, Tiles, Marbles

iii) Special purpose materials:

Pipes, Sanitary fittings.

### (C): Depending upon Metallurgy:

Metallurgy is the branch of science and technologies concerned with the properties of metals, their production and purification.

#### \*) Types

##### a) Metals:

- Materials having high electrical and thermal conductivity.
- Malleable and ductile materials.

##### b) Non-metals:

- Materials not having electrical and thermal conductivity.
- Non-malleable and non-ductile.

### (D): Depending Upon Composition:

##### a) Ceramics

- Ceramics are the material neither metallic nor organic.
- It may be crystalline, glassy or both.
- Manufactured by baking natural clay and mineral admixtures at higher temperature.

##### b) Polymers:

- Large molecule which is the composition of smaller units.
- Eg: Green House Plastics.

### # PROPERTIES of Construction Materials:

#### A) Physical properties:

i): Dimensions: It explains the shape and size of the materials.

ii): Water Absorption Capacity:

$$W.A.C = \frac{\text{water absorbed}}{\text{Dry wt. of material.}}$$

iii) Specific gravity: The ratio of density of a substance to the standard substance.

$$\text{specific gravity} = \frac{\text{density of material}}{\text{density of material at } 4^{\circ}\text{C}}$$

iv): Soundness: The resistance against heat and moisture.

v) Frost resistance: The resistance against repeated cycle of freezing and thawing.

vi) Permeability: The property to permit water to flow through it.

vii) Porosity: The ratio of ~~total~~ total volume of voids by total volume of substance.

$$\text{porosity} = \frac{\text{volume of voids}}{\text{total volume.}}$$



## B) MECHANICAL PROPERTIES:

- i) **Strength:** The capacity to withstand great force or pressure.
- ii) **Resilience:** The energy stored in a material when strained within elastic limit.  
→ Area under stress-strain curve upto the point of elastic limit.
- iii) **Hardness:** The resistance to penetration of surface.
- iv) **Toughness:**  
The ability of the body to absorb energy and get plastically deformed without fracturing or broken.
- v) **Ductility:** The capacity of metal to be made into wire.
- vi) **Malleability:** The property of metal to be beaten down into thin sheets.
- vii) **Elasticity:** The property by which material regains original configuration after removing deforming force.

viii) **Creep:**

The property of material indicating the tendency of material to move slowly and deform permanently under influence of external mechanical stress.

ix) **Fatigue:** The weakening of material due to repeated loading of material.

x) **Tenacity:** The toughness of material to resist breaking.

## # BRICKS:

Bricks are obtained by molding clay to suitable shape & size and burnt in clamps or kilns.

(\*) Composition:

Materials	% Composition	Use.
Silica		

(P.T.O)

Materials	% Composition	Uses.
Silica/Sand	50-60%.	Helps retain shape, impart durability, prevents shrinkage. → Excess: makes brittle & weak.
Alumina/Clay	20-30%.	absorbs water, renders clay plastic. → Excess: cracks on burning.
Lime	<10%.	reduces shrinkage, flux for melting silica. → Excess: melt & loose shape.
Alkalis	<10%.	flux to melt brick and quick setting → Excess: efflorescence.
	<7%.	→ gives colour to brick → Excess: dark and blue.
Magnesia	1%.	causes clay to sinter at slow. Excess: makes colour yellow.

#### # Short:

Silica (50-60%)	Alumina (20-30%)
Lime (2-5%)	Iron oxide (<7%)
Magnesia (<1%)	Alkalis (<10%)

(\*) Based on physical & chemical properties:

1) 1<sup>st</sup> class brick:

→ IS: 190\*90\*90

NS: 230\*110\*55 / 224\*108\*57

→ WAC: 12-15% of dry weight immersed in cold water for 24 hrs.

→ Compressive strength:  $\geq 10$  MPa

→ Burnt ~~in~~ in Brick Kilns.

2) 2<sup>nd</sup> class bricks:

→ Ground molded.

→ WAC: 16-20% of dry weight immersed in cold water for 24 hrs.

→  $\geq 7$  MPa &  $\leq 10$  MPa

→ Non-sharp and non-uniform.

→ Burnt in brick kilns.

3) 3<sup>rd</sup> class brick:

→ Ground molded

→ WAC: 25% of dry weight when immersed 24 hr in cold water

→ Burnt in clamps.

→ Underburnt.

→ C.S:  $< 7$  MPa.

→ Produces dull sound when struck together.

4) 4<sup>th</sup> class brick:

→ Overburnt and dark.

→ Highly distorted.

→ C.S: very high.

(\*) Usage:

Building walls, soiling purpose, lining in furnaces or chimney.



## \* Properties of Good Brick:

- (a): Colour: It must be uniform and bright.
- (b): Shape: It must have plane face, sharp edges, right angled corners.
- (c) Size: must be standard size.
- (d): Textures: No fissures or cavity in the body.
- (e): Strength: No less than 3.5 MPa  
Not break when dropped from 0.9 to 1 m
- (f): Hardness: Finger scratching must not produce impression.
- (g): Water absorption: Not more than 20% of dry weight.
- (h) Efflorescence: Not show white patches when soaked for 24 hours in water.
- (i): Thermal conductivity should be low.
- (ii) Must provide sound insulation and resistive against fire.

## # STONES:

It is naturally available building materials derived from rocks not having definite shape or chemical composition.

### (A): According to Geological Classification:

- i) Igneous rocks → rocks formed from cooling and solidifying rock masses from molten state.  
Eg: Granite, Basalt
- ii) Sedimentary rocks. → rocks formed by gradation decomposition of disintegrate rocks.  
Eg: Limestone, Sandstone, Mudstone.
- iii): Metamorphic Rocks: rocks formed by treating igneous and sedimentary rocks at extreme pressure and heat.

### (B) According to physical classification:

- i) Stratified → Layered in structure  
Eg: Limestone, sandstone
- ii) Unstratified → not layered in structure  
Eg: Granite, Basalt
- iii) Foliated: → Tendency to split along definite direction.  
Eg: slate, Phyllite.

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### (C) According to Chemical Classification:

i) Silicious

→ silica as  
main content

Eg: granite,  
sandstone

ii) Argillaceous

→ alumina as  
main content.

Eg: slate,  
laterite

iii) Calcareous.

→  $\text{CaCO}_3$  as  
main content.

Eg: Limestone,  
marble

### (\*) Requirement of Good Building Stones:

a) Strength: Must be capable to resist heavy loads pressed on it.

b) Specific gravity: Lie within 2.4 to 2.8.

c) Stiffness: Must resist deformation.

d) Hardness: Must resist wear and tear

e) Durability: Must resist effect of rain, wind, heat.

f) Cost: Easiness in quarries to extract

g) Toughness: Must sustain stress against fracture.

### # SAND:

Naturally occurring granular material composed of finely divided rock material silica:

Size: 0.75 mm to 4.75 mm IS sieve.

### (\*) Properties of Good Sand:

i) Clean and coarse

ii) Free from organic matter.

iii) Chemically inert

iv) Well graded.

v) Contain angular sharp coarse grain.

### # METALS:

Metals provide structural framework for large buildings.

### (\*) Classification:

(A): Ferrous metals:

→ Iron (Fe) has main constituent:

Types:

i) Cast iron: 1.7 to 4.5 % Carbon content

ii) Wrought iron: 0.05 to 0.15 % Carbon content.

iii) Steel: 0.25 to 1.5 % Carbon content.



### (i): Cast iron

- Compressive strength: 700MPa.
- Brittle: liable to break easily.
- Specific gravity: 7.5
- Coarse crystalline fibrous.
- Doesn't rust easily
- MP =  $1200^{\circ}\text{C}$

### ii) Wrought iron:

- Compressive strength = 200MPa
- Brittle
- Specific gravity: 7.7
- Coarse crystalline, fibrous.
- Rust easily.
- MP:  $1500^{\circ}\text{C}$ .

### (iii) Steel:

Alloy of iron and carbon:

#### (\*) Features of structural steel:

- i) High tensile strength
- ii) Ductility
- iii) Malleability
- iv) ~~High~~ Toughness
- v) Weldability
- vi) Durability.

### \* Types of steel

#### 1) Mild steel:

- 0.25% C, 0.055% S, 0.55% P
- Malleable & ductile
- welded easily
- strong in tension and compression
- Magnetized permanently.
- Sp gravity: 7.85.

Use: making rolled I, H, T, C section.

#### 2) High Tension:

- 0.80% C, 0.60% Mn
- High strength, strong in tension.
- Use: to built prestress concrete.

#### 3) High Carbon steel

- 0.7 to 1.5% C
- Hard but easily broken.
- Difficulty welding.
- Strong in compression than tension.
- Eg: make drills, chisels.

## (B): Non-Ferrous Metals:

→ Metals not containing Iron.

Eg: aluminium, copper, lead, zinc, fine as well as gold and silver.

### Advantages:

- i) Highly malleable.
- ii) Resistance against rust & corrosion.
- iii) Non-magnetic.

Uses: i) making wires  
ii) making pipes and roofing.

## # CONCRETE:

The mixture formed by mixing cement, fine aggregate, coarse aggregate and water in fixed proportion is called concrete.

i.e.,

Concrete = Aggregate [75-80%] + Cement, Water, Air voids [20-25%]

### (x): Usage:

- i) Building blocks
- ii) Making pavement
- iii) Using bed concrete.

### (x) Disadvantage:

- (i): Very poor tensile strength.
- (ii) Fresh concrete shrinks on drying.

### (x) Advantages:

- i) High compressive strength
- ii) Resistance against water
- iii) Fresh concrete can be molded to various shapes
- iv) Durable and fire resistance.
- v) Safe from Termite attack.

## # CEMENT:

The binding material that binds aggregates to form solid mass is called cement.

It is obtained by burning a mixture of calcareous and argillaceous materials at high temperature.

### (x): Classification:

#### a) Hydraulic cement:

→ Hardens when exposed to water.

Eg: OPC, PPC.

#### b) Non-hydraulic cement:

→ ~~Has~~ Doesn't harden when exposed to water

Eg: Lime.



Ingredients	Composition	Functions
Lime (CaO)	60-65%.	Controls strength and soundness
Silica (SiO <sub>2</sub> )	17-25%.	Gives strength. Excess: Slow setting
Alumina (Al <sub>2</sub> O <sub>3</sub> )	3-8%.	Quick setting Excess: reduces strength.
Ferrous oxide (Fe <sub>2</sub> O <sub>3</sub> )	0.5-6%.	Colour gives, Helps to fusion others.
Magnesium oxide (MgO)	0.5-4%.	Gives colour & hardness. Excess: causes cracks.
Sulphur trioxide (SO <sub>3</sub> )	1-2%.	Sound.
Alkalis	0.5-1%.	Excess causes cracking.

## # Manufacture of Cement:

The steps in cement manufacturing are as follows:

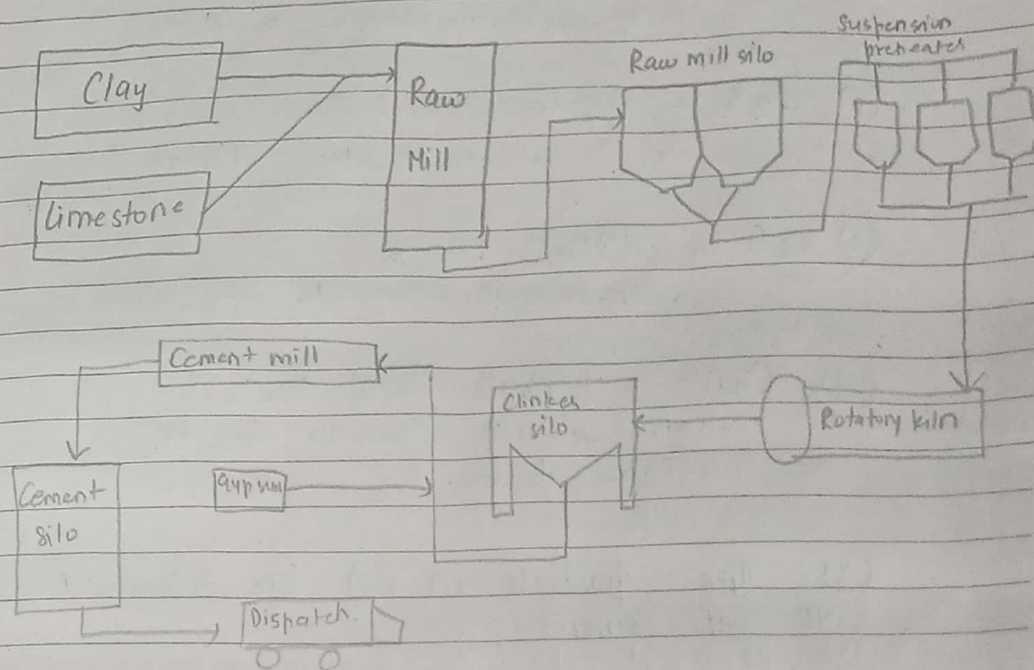
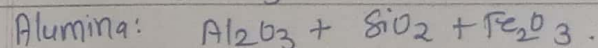
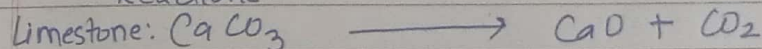


Fig. Cement manufacturing.

1) Limestone is heated with alumina at 1450°C in kiln.

Reactions:



(2): This results in the formation of clinkers:

(a):  $C_3S = (3CaO \cdot SiO_2)$   
= Tri-calcium silicate. = Alite.

(b)  $C_2S = (2CaO \cdot SiO_2)$   
= Di-calcium silicate = Belite.

(c)  $C_3A = (3CaO \cdot Al_2O_3)$   
= Tri-calcium aluminate = Celite.

(d):  $C_4AF = (4CaO \cdot Al_2O_3 \cdot Fe_2O_3)$   
= Tetra calcium Alumino ferrite  
= Tetra felite.

(3): The products in (2) are pulverized to get cement.

(P.T.O)

## Compounds

## Functions

$C_3S$

- 45% composition
- responsible for early concrete setting
- rapid hardening of cement.

$C_2S$

- 25% composition
- responsible for late concrete strength

$C_3A$

- 12% composition
- No significant strength contribution.
- It has fast set thus, gypsum is added.

$C_4AF$

- 10% composition.
- No strength contribution
- Gives volume and reacts slowly.



(\*) Properties of Cement:

a) Crushing strength:

43 grade OPC means cement has 28 days compressive strength of minimum 43 MPa at room temperature.

(b) Setting time:

→ 30-60 minutes for initial setting.

Initial setting time: ~~when the~~  
The time taken by the sticky paste of concrete to stiffen.

(\*) Nominal Mix Design:

Cement : sand : Aggregate. ratio.

(a) M10: 1:3:6

(b) M15: 1:2:4

(c) ~~M10~~ M20: 1:1.5:3

(\*) Uses:

- i) Filling cracks in concrete structures.
- ii) Masonry work, plastering.

(\*)

OPC

PPC

→ Ordinary portland cement

Pozzolana Portland Cement

→ costly due to expensive clinkers.

→ relatively cheaper.

→ less fines

→ fines.