

RESTRICTED

**SECTION 146 – CORAL**

3112. Coral is found in the Pacific and Caribbean areas. Reef, beach and lagoon deposits, found at or below sea level, may be either loose or well cemented.

Inland deposits, usually under a shallow overburden of soil, may be found well above sea level, in which case the material will be hard, and similar to compact limestone.



Figure 31-4: Coral

3113. Hard coral is a good construction material. It can be used both for concrete and for bituminous construction when crushed, screened, and washed.

3114. Soft, or “live” coral is satisfactory only if it is white in colour. Uncompact coral is very unstable unless well drained, but when worked it has the property of bonding or cementing usually in three to five days, and clean white coral without impurities can be laid and compacted in heavy rain if drainage is adequate. Grades containing clay will not compact properly if the moisture content is high.

3115. A minimum compacted thickness of 8 ins should be used.

3116. Coral can be compacted by tracked or wheeled rollers or by traffic. Sheep's foot rollers are useless. Bonding is improved by using salt water.

3117. No separate surface course is necessary if regrading and repair with fresh raw material are carried out when required.

Sprinkling is advisable in dry weather to prevent raveling, and to reduce dust. A coat of bitumen emulsion (0.4 to 0.7 gallons per sq yd) gives satisfactory dust control, and reduces maintenance work.