

Environmental Advantages

In response to growing environmental and economic forces, architects, engineers, developers and owners are seeking efficient, innovative building solutions that conserve non-renewable resources. Increasingly, concrete is being recognized for its strong environmental benefits in support of creative and effective sustainable development.

When considering the lifetime environmental impact of a building material – extraction, production, construction, operation, demolition and recycling – concrete is an excellent choice to meet these goals.

Environmental Benefits of Concrete

- Concrete is produced locally from abundant natural resources.
- Concrete can be made with reclaimed industrial materials that would otherwise burden landfills.
- Recycled materials in concrete reduce CO2 emissions.
- At the end of a concrete building or pavement's usable life, concrete can be recycled.
- Pervious concrete percolates stormwater into soil, recharging aquifers and preventing polluted runoff from overwhelming streams and lakes.
- Concrete's thermal mass reduces temperature swings in buildings and conserves energy.
- Use of Insulating Concrete for above-grade wall systems provides for increased R values, reducing heating, cooling and infrastructure costs.
- Concrete's light color reduces the heat island effect, lowering urban energy use.
- Concrete's light color reflects more light at night, reducing lighting infrastructure and energy costs.
- Impervious concrete roofs support green landscaping, reducing water runoff and reducing heat island effect.
- Concrete structures are durable.
- Concrete helps achieve LEED certification.