

Producer members

Producers offer mainland UK coverage unless otherwise stated

Breedon Aggregates 01332 694000
www.breedonaggregates.com

CEMEX UK Materials Ltd 01932 568833
www.cemex.co.uk

Cornish Lime Company 01208 79779
www.cornishlime.co.uk

CPI Mortars Ltd 0845 850 9090
www.euromix.com

Hugh King & Co 01294 557515
www.hughking.co.uk

John Carr (Liverpool) Ltd 0151 2070067
(Liverpool)

Marshall Watts Mix 01262 675383
www.wattsmix.com

Premier Mortars 0345 3013030
www.marshalls.co.uk/premiermortars

RTU 02890 851441
www.rtu.co.uk (Belfast)

Tarmac 03701 116 116
www.tarmac.com

New data sheet published on using mortars at low and high temperatures

The MIA has now published its new data sheet on factory-produced mortar for use at low and high temperatures.

The data sheet explains that if the temperature of recently laid mortar falls below 0°C there is a probability of some degree of frost attack. The water may freeze and expand thus disrupting the mortar by forcing the material apart and breaking the bond.

It used to be thought that this process was completely irreversible. However, the presence of free lime in the mix imparts to some degree the property of self-healing and any hairline cracks formed will tend to seal, over a short period of time.

The data sheet points out that it is obviously desirable to take precautions to minimise frost attack, explaining that special precautions should be taken when using mortar in winter conditions.

The inclusion of carefully controlled air entrainment under factory conditions in mortar increases the frost resistance in its hardened state and it is for this reason that MIA members supply specially modified factory-produced mortars for winter usage.

The masonry contractor's primary concern during hot weather is evaporation of water from the mortar. If sufficient water is not present, the bond between the mortar and masonry unit may be reduced. However, the effects of high temperatures are not as damaging as those of low to masonry performance. The increased rate of hydration of the cement and favourable curing conditions in warm, humid weather will help develop masonry strength if sufficient water is present at the time of construction.

MIA data sheet 7, *Factory-produced mortar for use at low and high temperatures* is downloadable from the resources section of www.mortar.org.uk.



National winners of the 2016 Guild of Bricklayers Competition

Finals of the Guild of Bricklayers 2016 national competition took place at PETROC, Barnstaple, Devon at the end of July.

Jordan Richards of Derby College took the senior category award – and the MIA cup – while Tim Johnston of Stephenson College was the junior winner.

The finals were a culmination of a competition that included nine heats around the country. At each, finalists were given up to six hours to construct a brickwork model from drawings supplied.

Guild of Bricklayers president, Phil Vine-Roberts, said of the final: 'It was a fantastic day, it was a privilege to be involved in the judging on the day. The quality of work was truly excellent and all the competitors should be extremely proud of themselves.'

CPI Euromix supplied the mortar for the competition on behalf of the Mortar Industry Association

National senior category winner, Jordan Richards of Derby College, receives the MIA cup from Guild of Bricklayers president, Phil Vine-Roberts (left) and CPI Euromix's Stuart Russell, who supplied the mortar for the competition



RTU aids exacting completion of community project

As part of the EU funded PEACE III Programme, the north Belfast Girdwood site has been transformed into a state of the art shared space, which offers first-class leisure, community and educational facilities. With an architectural finish at the core of the building, Girdwood Community Hub is a fine example of this throughout. With this emphasis in mind, RTU had a lot to prove ahead of the project moving on site by completing a series of samples of the finish the company's product could deliver, for example board mark concrete.



Main skylight area of the Girdwood building

Sam McIlroy, RTU, explained:

“There are a lot of exposed materials in the design of Girdwood, so the focus wasn't just on providing a quality product, but also a quality finish. We worked closely with O'Hare & McGovern and Michael Whitely Architects on various trials to

ensure we could deliver the finish they required. We were more than happy to showcase our ability to meet these specific finishes. ”



Downstairs area of the Girdwood building



Brickwork detail of the Girdwood building

RTU supplied 350m³ of standard grey mortar, which was used throughout the building along with 5,000m³ of concrete. This was included in the stunning coffer ceiling and board mark concrete, both visible in the foyer,

along with concrete for a large retaining wall outside the building. RTU mortar was also utilised on all brickwork.

Along with energy-saving mechanical and electrical features, the building also incorporates low-carbon concrete within its structure, helping to meet its BREEAM targets. Through various material tests, RTU was able to adapt its range of ready mixed building materials in order to enrich the sustainability performance of the community project.

As a result, RTU used recycled content to deliver 50% and 70% cement replacement GGBS (Ground Granulated Blast Furnace Slag). This high level combination of product and service was commented on by Adrian Mullan, project manager for O'Hare & McGovern. *“I found RTU to be a very professional and knowledgeable company in their chosen field. RTU technical manager, Samuel McIlroy, worked with us when there were difficulties getting certain architectural finishes on in situ concrete elements. The delivery and service of concrete to the site and the ready mixed mortar was very good and this all helped to promote a good working relationship and excellent end result to the overall project.”*



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MIA is part of the Mineral Products Association, the trade association for the aggregates, asphalt, cement, concrete, dimension stone, lime, mortar and silica sand industries.

Resilient housing conference in London

Modern Masonry Alliance and The Concrete Centre are staging a one-day conference on resilient housing in London on 3 November.

The event is aimed at house builders, architects, local authorities and, indeed, all those involved in the provision, design, construction and maintenance of UK housing.

The organisers say that the conference is in response to the growing need to take full account of resilience in the design of UK homes. They promise a broad range of technical expertise will be provided.

Areas to be covered include practical guidance on BS 85500 flood resistant and resilient construction, best practice for the design of resilient concrete and masonry and an explanation of how resilience and changing demographics are impacting current and future housing needs.

Further information is available at www.concretecentre.com/Housing2016.