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Aggregate Concrete Blocks

Aggregate Block Sustainability

Introduction

The aggregate block industry has been a major user of by-product materials since the 1930's when it produced blocks using the residues from the production of so-called low gas. These residues were coke breeze. This material is no longer available but the industry still uses huge quantities of by-product, secondary or recycled materials for the production of blocks.

Government regards the industry as being a prime potential user of all kinds of recycled products and the industry has adopted several such new materials in recent years. The use by the aggregate block industry of by-products prevents these materials being consigned to landfill sites.

Sustainability credentials

- At the end of the life of a building, aggregate concrete blocks can be recycled for further use.
- Most aggregate concrete blocks are manufactured using by-product, secondary or recycled materials.
- Aggregate concrete blocks have a long life. As they do not deteriorate in use, they have the potential to last for centuries. They require no maintenance.
- A building constructed with aggregate concrete block is easily modified to accommodate the needs of users as these change over the lifetime of a building.
- Most aggregate concrete blocks use locally sourced materials.
- Aggregate concrete blocks are not attacked by vermin and insects and are not affected adversely by water such as floodwater from within or without the building.
- Buildings with aggregate concrete blocks have excellent fire resistance properties.
- Meeting the thermal and acoustic requirements for Building Regulations compliance is easy with aggregate concrete blocks.
- Aggregate concrete blocks can be used to construct buildings with high thermal mass.
- Compliance with The Code for Sustainable Homes is easy to achieve with aggregate concrete blocks.
- Aggregate concrete blocks can be used to achieve high Green Guide ratings for both walls and floors.

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