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# South African Coal Ash

SARS Tax Exemption No: 930012713

## WHAT IS READYMIX CONCRETE?

Dear all,

26 August 2021



We at **SACAA**, often get asked a few general questions:

- ? What is readymix?
- ? Is readymix concrete?
- ? Does readymix have cement or ash in it?
- ? What do you do with readymix?

People also don't understand the difference between cement and

concrete. They talk about the cement road; no, it is a concrete road.

A road gets built with a top layer or of cement (maybe some ash), or with Bitumen – we used to call it tar.

Concrete is made from stones, sand, cement, ash, and water. Aggregate and sand is the most mined mineral in the world as all infrastructure has concrete in it, even wood and steel buildings get placed on concrete foundations.

We often hear people say things like “can I schedule a delivery of cement?”, when what they really mean is, can they schedule a delivery of readymix concrete.

We don't mind hearing cement when we understand that what you really meant was ready mix concrete and we are happy to explain the difference when we have the opportunity to do so.

This is one of those opportunities when we can take the time to point out the differences between ready mix concrete and cement.

## WHAT IS THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN CEMENT (nowadays includes ash), AND CONCRETE?

SACAA Let 017 WHAT IS READYMIX CONCRETE

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Although the terms cement and concrete often are used interchangeably, cement is actually an ingredient of concrete. Concrete is basically a mixture of aggregates and paste.

The aggregates are sand and gravel or crushed stone; the paste is water and Portland cement. Concrete gets stronger as it gets older. Portland cement is not a brand name, but the generic term for the type of cement used in virtually all concrete, just as *stainless is a type of steel and sterling a type of silver*. Cement



comprises from 10 to 15 percent of the concrete mix, by volume. Through a process called hydration, the cement and water harden and bind the aggregates into a rocklike mass. This hardening process continues for years meaning that concrete gets stronger as it gets older.

So, there is no such thing as a cement sidewalk, or a cement mixer; the proper terms are concrete sidewalk and concrete mixer.

Now that you know the difference between cement and readymix concrete, the next time someone talks about their new cement patio, or cement driveway or a cement sidewalk or the ever popular "cement pond", you can explain to them that what they are actually referring to is concrete.

Many of **SACAA**'s members also have concrete plants or also known as readymix plants. In many cases, also own brick manufacturing plants, where concrete is used to make the bricks. Nowadays, bricks are also made using ash as the binder in place of cement.

To obtain more information – please visit **SACAA** website to see member companies details.

Yours sincerely,

**Belinda Heichler**

**SACAA President**

