



What is Concrete?

Contrary to popular belief, concrete and cement are not the same thing; Cement is actually just a component of concrete. Concrete is made up of three basic components: water, aggregate (rock and sand) and Portland cement. Powder Portland cement acts as a binding agent when mixed with water and aggregates. This combination will be poured and harden into the durable material we are all familiar with, concrete.

3 Basic Components of Concrete:

- 1. Portland Cement:** The cement and water form a paste that coats the rock and sand in the mix. The paste hardens and binds the rock and sand together.
- 2. Water:** Water is needed to chemically react with the cement and to provide workability with the concrete. The amount of water in the mix in pounds compared with the amount of cement is called the water/cement ratio; the lower the water/cement ratio, the stronger the concrete.
- 3. Aggregates:** Sand is the fine aggregate. Gravel or crushed stone is the coarse aggregate.

Additional Questions?

Contact:

Nick Gallagher

South Ready Mix Sales

641-522-9206