

H+H Information Sheet

By Product

Page 1 of 1

What is Aircrete?

The materials used in the manufacture of H+H Aircrete are:

- pulverised fuel ash (PFA)
- sand
- cement
- lime
- water

The manufacturing process begins by mixing PFA, sand and water to form a slurry. The slurry is heated and mixed with cement and lime, and finally a small quantity of aluminium powder is evenly dispersed through the mixture before it is poured into moulds.

Adding aluminium initiates a chemical reaction, very much like proving, which generates minute bubbles and forms the characteristic aircrete structure and appearance. When the mixture has partially set the resultant 'cakes' are wire-cut into blocks of predetermined size, and transferred to autoclaves for high pressure steam curing. During this process the ingredients combine to form the calcium silicate hydrates which establish the special properties of the finished product.

Every H+H UK factory is equipped with process laboratories staffed by qualified chemists and technicians who ensure strict compliance with the company's IMS certification to ISO 14001.

The manufacture of H+H Aircrete is environmentally friendly compared to many other materials. A large proportion of the product is pulverised fuel ash (PFA), a by-product from coal-burning power stations which would otherwise be used in landfill. The process is also highly efficient with most waste material and energy being recycled back into the process itself.



Contact details

For enquiries call
Tel: 01732 886444
or email
info@hhcelcon.co.uk

Head Office:
H+H UK Limited
Celcon House
Ightham, Sevenoaks
Kent TN15 9HZ

For further information
about the subject
covered or any H+H
product, please call or
visit our website at
www.hhcelcon.co.uk

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