

Recycled Concrete Aggregates—Grey Concrete Goes Green

WHAT IT IS: Rather than using sand and stone that has been mined to create concrete, recycled concrete aggregates use the byproducts of other industrial processes, such as fiberglass and granulated plastics, to form a material that can be applied to foundations, driveways, walls, sidewalks, and other building projects.



WHY IT'S A PATH FAVORITE:

- **Green Materials:** Recycled concrete aggregates find a use for materials that would otherwise be discarded as waste. They also eliminate much of the environmental damage associated with mining.
- **Production Cost & Alternative Material Production:** These products can cost half as much as their non-recycled counterparts, thereby reducing construction costs.

INITIAL COST:

Recycled concrete aggregate substitutes cost about \$3.50 to \$7 per cubic yard, depending on local availability.

OPERATIONAL COST:

None.

U.S. CODE ACCEPTANCE:

No standard regulations address the use of recycled concrete aggregate.

INSTALLATION:

Installation is the same as for non-recycled concrete.

BENEFITS FOR HOMEOWNERS:

- Many types of recycled concrete aggregates use glass, which can add to a home's durability.
- Because this material is less expensive, it can help reduce the cost of a project.