

Portland cement was first developed in England from natural cements. A builder from Leeds in England, was the first to make cement. He combined clay with limestone by heating the mixture. A similar process is used to make cement today, but more sophisticated and this helps to produce tons of cement. In the modern age, Portland cement is manufactured by combining calcium, silicon, aluminium and iron. Some other chemicals can also be used. There are two types, white Portland cement and grey Portland cement. Portland cement is used to make concrete. Concrete, used in the construction industry, is made up of sand, stone, dry cement powder and water. The cement, when it dries and hardens, binds the sand and stone and forms a hard material called concrete. The hardening process occurs when the dry cement powder reacts with water. This hardening process occurs because of water. Too much water decreases the strength of the concrete. Another type of hardening is use of air to dry cement. In this process, a reaction occurs between the calcium containing compounds in cement and air.