CONCRETE CHATS

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Blended Cement

Covered by ASTM C595 – Standard Specification for Bended Hydraulic Cements, these materials are made by combining Portland Cement with other material including limestone, slag, and pozzolans. Limestone is a naturally occurring material. Slag (Granulated Ground Blast Furnace Slag) is a byproduct of iron production and has hydraulic as well as pozzolanic reactivity. Pozzolanic materials react with hydrated lime, which is a byproduct of cement hydration. Pozzolans can be artificial, like fly ash or silica fume, or naturally occurring, like volcanic rock. Descriptions of blended cement materials are listed below. Descriptions also included changes found in the 2026 release of ASTM C595 as reported by the American Cement Association (ACA).

Type IL – Limestone Cement: A blended hydraulic cement containing between 5% and15% limestone, by mass, with Portland cement.

Type IS – Slag Cement: A blended hydraulic cement containing up to 95% blast-furnace slag, by mass, and Portland cement. The 2026 release of ASTM C595 will allow up to 15% limestone in a Type IS material.

Type IP – Pozzolan Cement: A blended hydraulic cement containing up to 40% pozzolans, by mass, with Portland cement. The 2026 release of ASTM C595 will allow up to 15% limestone in a Type IP material.

Type IT – Ternary Cement: A blended hydraulic cement containing two pozzolans, slag and a pozzolan, limestone and a pozzolan, or limestone and slag. Maximum constituent content is 15% limestone by mass, 40% pozzolans by mass, or 70% total combination of limestone, pozzolans, and slag by mass. The 2026 release of ASTM C595 will require Type IT materials to contain two Supplementary Cementitious Materials (SCMs) (two pozzolans or one pozzolan and one slag) and will allow up to 15% limestone.

Type IC – Composite Cement: Type IC is a new blended cement introduced in the 2026 release of ASTM C595 and will permit “any number of pozzolan, slag, and limestone constituents” not exceeding 70%, by mass, of the blended cement and the limestone content will not exceed 30%, by mass.

The majority of all cement currently shipped in the US is a blended cement with Type IL topping that list. With the 2026 update to ASTM C595 allowing up to 15% limestone in Type IS, Type IP, and Type IT materials, Portland limestone cement (Type IL) functionally becomes the base material for other blended cements. The introduction of Type IC opens the door for quaternary blended cements (four materials) as well as other potential new materials in the future.

QuicTip Products - BoMetals Inc. products are suitable for use in all concrete mixtures regardless of the cement type. For additional information contact-us.

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