
Construction Materials I

Warm-up!

Concrete for blocks
Wood for a cottage
Steel frame
Glass for the windows
or doors

Get ready!

1 Before you read the passage,
talk about these questions.

- 1 What are some common building materials?
- 2 How are different materials commonly used in structures?

Vocabulary



2 Read the webpage. Then, choose the correct answers.

- 1 What is the purpose of the webpage?
 - A to list available building materials from a company
 - B to recommend building materials for particular projects
 - C to advertise sale prices for building materials
 - D to describe manufacturing processes for building materials
- 2 According to the webpage, which of the following is NOT true of bricks?
 - A They are fire resistant.
 - B They have a contemporary appearance.
 - C They require little maintenance.
 - D They withstand bad weather
- 3 What service does the webpage offer?
 - A delivering I-beams to construction sites
 - B constructing brick buildings
 - C installing stone floors and walls
 - D making custom-length rebar

HOME ABOUT US SERVICES CONTACT

Welcome to BuildersChoice.com!

Builder's Choice is the #1 source for materials, including ...

Cements & Aggregates ▾

Mix your own **concrete** with our **sand**, gravel, and cement, or choose our ready-mixed concrete. We'll even deliver it to your site!

Bricks & Mortar ▾

Low-maintenance bricks resist weather and fire. Unlike many contemporary styles, traditional bricks have a timeless, classic appearance.

Natural & Manufactured Stone ▾

Granite, marble, slate — we have it all! Construct durable floors and walls. Enhance your architectural features with decorative stone.

Metal Beams & Bars ▾

Our **steel I-beams** are 98% **iron** and 2% carbon. They're built to last! Our rods of **rebar** come in 20, 40, and 60 feet. We also provide custom cuts.

Vocabulary

3 Match the words (1-8) with the definitions (A-H).

- | | | |
|-------------|----------------|--------------|
| 1 ___ iron | 4 ___ rebar | 7 ___ cement |
| 2 ___ steel | 5 ___ sand | 8 ___ mortar |
| 3 ___ metal | 6 ___ concrete | |

- A metal pieces that builders put in concrete to make it stronger
- B a material composed of iron and carbon
- C a mixture of water, sand, and lime that helps bricks stay together
- D a grainy substance composed of tiny rock particles
- E a powder made up of sand and gravel
- F a material used to make steel
- G a hard substance made with aggregate and cement
- H a hard, shiny, malleable material

Cement vs. Concrete vs. Mortar

Cement	Concrete	Mortar
- Binding element in both concrete & mortar - Made of limestone, clay, shells, & silica sand - Sets & hardens when combined with water	- Made of cement, sand, & gravel - Used for building: foundations, slabs, patios, & masonry - Most flexible, forming into any mold & rock hard	- Made of cement & sand - Used as the glue to hold bricks, blocks, etc. together - Various types available for specific applications

the spruce

4 Choose the sentence that uses the underlined part correctly.

- 1 A To make concrete, the builders use different types of metal.
B The second floor is supported by I-beams.
- 2 A Rebar is often used for decoration.
B Aggregate is a mixture of sand, gravel, and broken stones.
- 3 A They made the floor with a stone called granite.
B Steel is a very unstable material.
- 4 A Sand is mostly made up of iron.
B Fire does not destroy walls made of bricks.

5  Listen and read the webpage again.
What are the benefits of using bricks?

