

**Producer members**

Producers offer mainland UK coverage unless otherwise stated

**C&G Concrete Ltd 01780 482000**  
www.candgconcrete.co.uk (East Midlands)

**CEMEX UK Materials Ltd 01932 568833**  
www.cemex.co.uk

**CPI Mortars Ltd 0845 850 9090**  
www.euromix.com

**Hanson Premix 0845 845 6699**  
www.hanson.biz

**John Carr (Liverpool) Ltd 0151 2070067**  
(Liverpool)

**Premier Mortars 0845 603 3406**  
www.marshalls.co.uk/premiermortars

**RTU 02890 851441**  
www.rtu.co.uk (Belfast)

**Remix Dry Mortar Ltd 01329 231200**  
www.remixdrymortar.co.uk

**Roadstone Dublin Ltd 00 35 31 4041200**  
www.roadstone.ie (Dublin)

**Smiths Concrete Ltd 01295 278177**  
www.smithsconcrete.co.uk (Oxfordshire)

**Tarmac Limited 08701 116116**  
www.tarmac.co.uk

**NEED TECHNICAL  
INFORMATION ON  
MORTARS?**

A wide range of technical data sheets is available to download from the MIA's web site covering mortar mixes, applications and standards.

For a complete list, visit the resources section at [www.mortar.org.uk](http://www.mortar.org.uk).

## Return to render

**Factory-produced renders can provide an attractive answer to the external insulation of homes when used with suitable insulating materials.**

The message comes from the Mortar Industry Association which points out that some 25 per cent of the existing housing stock in the UK is of a solid nine-inch brick construction. Obviously cavity wall insulation is not an option and few owners want to see bulky insulation added to internal walls.

Factory-produced renders give a weather-proof and an aesthetically pleasing finish when used with a suitable insulation board. Renders can be supplied in a variety of colours and modern pigments not only have their own sustainability story but also maintain their original colour over a long period of time. Attractiveness of finish is also a benefit as the setting rate of factory-produced mortars allows time for tooling the surface before curing. Numerous finishes are available including roughcast, pebble

dash, tyrolean, smooth floated and scraped.

Renders are also very durable and offer low maintenance.

The type of mortar used for rendering will depend on the background, type of wall and the exposure of the building. Two-coat work, an undercoat and finishing coat, is generally required. In severe exposure conditions three-coat work may be necessary, with the first coat relatively impervious to water and the others more porous.

Factory-produced mortars offer good workability and plasticity, a high degree of cohesiveness and spread easily under the float. This increases productivity and minimises wastage by droppings. They can also be used with spraying equipment and factory production ensures colour consistency.

Technical guidance on external insulation and render coats is being produced by the MIA and will be made available through the association's website.



Twenty-five per cent of UK housing stock is of solid nine-inch brick construction.

## Tarmac aids birth of new maternity extension



Brickwork and blockwork well underway at Lister Hospital

**Tarmac is using dry mortar silos to supply 150 tonnes of natural coloured mortar for a £16.4 million expansion of the Lister Hospital maternity unit in Stevenage, Hertfordshire.**

Brickwork sub contractor D-Pro Construction is handling the 18-week brickwork and blockwork contract for Geoffrey Osborne Construction. D-Pro's director, Dave Petrie, recognises the clear benefits of Tarmac dry silo mortar. He confirms that it gives a cleaner site and results in less wastage. He says its use is

also more cost-effective and certainly gives better mortar colour consistency across the project than would be the case with site mixing.

The project is a three-storey expansion of the Lister Hospital's current maternity and neonatal unit. When fully open in late 2011 it will enable the unit to support over 5,500 births a year and will allow the East and North Hertfordshire NHS Trust to bring together all of its specialist maternity and neonatal staff onto a single site.

## House building shows signs of recovery

Registrations for new homes in February were up 73 per cent compared to last year says the latest National House-Building Council's (NHBC) statistics. This relates to an increase to 9,556 registrations compared to 5,526 in 2009.

Applications to build new homes across the UK during the three months December 2009 to February 2010 were up 66 per cent to 24,105, in comparison to 14,537 registrations for the same period last year. The rate of recovery dipped in January says the NHBC as extreme weather conditions impacted on registrations but, with spring approaching, the private sector appears to be showing signs of recovery.

"As we enter the spring building season, there is a cautious optimism about the signs of improvement in the sector," said Imtiaz Farookhi, chief executive of NHBC. "The average daily home sales are increasing when compared with this time last year, which given the difficulties surrounding mortgage availability is a positive statement of intent. There is a palpable sense of the property sector working together to do all it can to continue and sustain recovery."

Recovery is reported as being remarkably evenly spread across the UK, with almost all regions reporting higher levels of registrations for December 2009 to February 2010 than for the same period in 2008/9.

## CLG appointment

A civil and structural engineer with wide experience of the use of mortar products, Peter Watt, has been appointed senior structural engineer by the Department of Communities and Local Government's Sustainable Buildings Division. He has special responsibility for Parts A and C of the England and Wales Building Regulations.



Before joining the department, Mr Watt ran his own company, having previously worked for a number of organisations and in consultancy. He had a 13-year stint as senior structural engineer

for the Brick Development Association.

### Mr Watt says:

"Through my involvement with British Standards and in particular the development of Eurocode 6 for masonry structures and CEN product standards for masonry products, materials and components under TC112, and in consultancy practice work, I have had a fair experience of the use of mortar products."

He points out that Part A of the building regulations particularly is very relevant to mortar products, dealing as it does with the simple design sizing rules for traditional masonry housing construction in brick and blockwork.



**mortar  
industry  
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MIA is part of the Mineral Products Association, the trade association for the aggregates, asphalt, cement, concrete, lime, mortar and silica sand industries