

## Producer members

Producers offer mainland UK coverage unless otherwise stated

**Anglian Lime Company 01787 313974**  
www.anglianlime.com

**Breedon Aggregates 01332 694000**  
www.breedonaggregates.com

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

**Cornish Lime Company 01208 79779**  
www.cornishlime.co.uk

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

**Hugh King & Co 01294 557515**  
www.hughking.co.uk

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

**Marshall's Premier Mortars 0345 3013030**  
www.marshall's.co.uk/premiermortars

**Mortar and Screed Company Ltd 01952 224202**  
www.mortarandscreed.co.uk

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

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

**Tarmac 03701 116 116**  
www.tarmac.com

**Watts Mix 01262 675383**  
www.wattsmix.com

# High cement demand leads to mortar rationing

**Present high demand from the construction industry for cement is meaning the factory-produced mortar industry is having to ration mortar supplies to some customers.**

MPA Mortar manager, Mick Russell said: 'Many of our producer members are experiencing difficulties with supplies of cement due to unprecedented demand, but they should be able to resume their full service reasonably shortly.'

The Mineral Products Association, of which MPA Mortar is part, has issued the following statement:

'The majority of UK cement is made from locally-sourced raw materials which in general terms have not been affected to the same extent as mainly imported building materials. Production of cement can be increased to help to meet demand, but where demand exceeds

supply capacity, longer lead times may be expected. As production catches up it shouldn't be long before supplies are back to normal depending on how long this surge in pent up demand actually lasts and subject to transport availability.'

**Housing minister, Rt Hon Chris Pincher MP opens the NHBC Hub in May.**

Full details are on page two.

## Spotlight on training brickies

Both the NHBC and the Association of Brickwork Contractors have launched their plans for increasing the numbers and skills levels of bricklayers, following high demand from the housebuilding and construction industries.

See page two for details.



## CPI supplies mortar for London development



A major development in east London is benefitting in terms of quality control and lessening of environmental impact from use of silo mortar supplied by CPI EuroMix.

Designed by AHMM architects, Hackney Road is a modern mixed-use development near Hoxton station in east London. The Regal London development will comprise nine

residential units and 150,000 square feet of commercial space, and will offer improved public facilities and cycle parking. A 4-star hotel will be the anchor occupier for the scheme.

CPI EuroMix is working with brickwork contractor DWG Brickwork on a range of mortars including 135 tonnes of its Beaconsfield white, and 200 tonnes of Harlow light and dark charcoal.

CPI is supplying silo-mixing stations on site, which each hold up to 35 tonnes of dry mortar. The system minimises waste as well as maintaining the mix and colours, which helps to reduce the environmental impact of projects during construction. Delivered to site, the silos produce a perfectly mixed mortar accredited to industry standard, BS EN ISO 9001:2015, the industry standard accreditation for quality control.

Hackney Road is a striking mixed-use development and on completion, will be

a cornerstone of Regal London's wider masterplan to re-establish a dynamic community in east London.

## An ABC answer to bricklaying

Demand from industry for more, better-skilled operatives has led to the Association of Brickwork Contractors (ABC) setting up a training programme of short duration courses through its assessment centre.

The courses include practical and theoretical experience in brick-slip systems, fire barriers, brick soffits, wind post installation and masonry support angles. Those taking part will have their training added to their Construction Skills Certificate Scheme cards, providing visible proof to current and future employers of their newfound expertise

The ABC Assessment Centre offers a total of 16 short duration courses, which include half-, one- and two-day programmes. Although aimed primarily at contractors and current employees, the training is being rolled out additionally in further education colleges.

Centre manager, Simon Livett, said: 'We believe ABC Assessment Centre courses will not only benefit the candidates themselves in terms of upgrading their skillset and boosting their career development, they will provide a filip for the bricklaying industry's reputation as a whole.'

## NHBC opens new training hub



The covered area for practical work.

A new construction industry apprentice training hub has been opened in the West Midlands by the NHBC, supported by Redrow and Tamworth Borough Council.

The aim is to help develop the next generation of skilled tradespeople starting out in housebuilding. Located in Tamworth, the NHBC Training Hub is able to support over 100 apprentices annually. It has been designed to immerse apprentices in a realistic working environment, helped by the fact that

it has been built next to an active Redrow development. In layout, it resembles a typical site with a large covered central area for practical work, alongside high-specification classrooms and welfare facilities.

Bricklaying has been chosen as the initial focus because of the shortage of skilled bricklayers in the housebuilding sector.

Opening the new centre in May, the government housing minister, Rt Hon Chris Pincher MP, said: 'I am very pleased to open NHBC's Training Hub which will train the next generation of bricklayers and will help directly address the skills shortage in the house building sector. Apprenticeships and traineeships ensure people have the skills they need to get a well-paid job.'

NHBC chief executive, Steve Woods, said: 'It gives me great pleasure to be able to launch the new NHBC Training Hub. By doing so, NHBC is addressing vital skills' gaps in the industry and providing brand new employment opportunities for young people.' The first group of apprentices started at the hub at the end of May.



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MPA Mortar is part of the Mineral Products Association, the trade association for the aggregates, asphalt, cement, concrete, dimension stone, lime, mortar and silica sand industries.