

Reusing Concrete from Crumbling Foundations

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Issue

Can concrete taken from a “crumbling foundation” (i.e., foundations that have deteriorated due to the presence of pyrrhotite) be reused?

Summary

Reuse of concrete taken from a crumbling foundation is prohibited in structural applications. Since October 1, 2017, it is illegal to knowingly use concrete or recycled material containing pyrrhotite in residential or commercial construction, unless it meets certain standards established by the Federal Army Corps of Engineers, National Institute of Standards and Technology, ASTM International, or other nationally recognized standards bureau and adopted by the State Building Inspector. Anyone selling concrete or recycled material containing pyrrhotite must provide the purchaser with written notice that the concrete meets the standards ([CGS §§ 29-265f & 265g](#)).

According to the State Building Inspector, these standards have not yet been adopted. Although the State Building Code adopts the American Concrete Institute standards for concrete, the current standard does not specifically mention pyrrhotite. According to the State Building Inspector, state standards will be delayed until there is consensus as to acceptable pyrrhotite levels in structural applications and clearly defined material testing methods.

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