

How is Cement Made?

Cement, when hydrated, forms the paste that hardens and holds all the ingredients in concrete together. Making cement is a process all its own and is also the most costly ingredient in concrete. There are many ingredients in different cements but the most common are limestone, alumina, silica, and gypsum.

Cement is made by first grinding limestone, alumina, and silica. These are then mixed and heated in a rotary kiln at a temp of 2500° F until they bond and turn into what looks like tiny marbles. These marbles are referred to as clinker. When the clinker has cooled, gypsum is added. The clinker and gypsum are ground together to form a fine powder making cement.

