

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

Recovery in sales of mortar in 2021

Producer members of MPA Mortar report a good recovery in sales of mortar in 2021 compared to last year, despite continuing transport and raw materials supply problems.

Executive chairman of MPA Mortar, Stuart Russell said:

'Mortar volumes have bounced back in 2021 from the COVID-stricken levels of 2020 and considering the challenges throughout the year in the form of HGV driver shortages and raw material limitations, members have really pulled the stops out with volumes up almost 30 per cent year on year. We're not quite back at pre-pandemic levels but with underlying demand for housing remaining strong we are well on the road to this.'

However, the Mineral Products Association's (MPA) latest quarterly survey

which covers producers of aggregates, asphalt, ready-mixed concrete and mortar, cautions that overall demand for mineral products slowed in the third quarter of 2021 after strong sales during spring and summer.

Looking ahead, MPA anticipates demand for most mineral products will remain relatively robust through 2022-23 although limited HGV drivers and haulage capacity will continue to affect supply.

More on mortar

MPA Mortar holds a stock of information on mortar matters on its website.

This includes technical data sheets, learning texts for students, briefing papers and an on-line mortar quiz to test your knowledge instantly.

And with winter fast approaching, the downloads include guidance on winter working with mortar - see data sheet 7, *Factory-produced mortar for use at low and high temperatures*.

Go to www.mortar.org.uk.



Mortar sales volumes have increased in 2021.

CPI mortar in the spotlight on Shakespeare theatre



Artist's impression of the finished theatre.

Mortar from CPI EuroMix will no doubt be under the spotlight in the coming year as it has been specified in the construction of the UK's third and most northern theatre dedicated to playwright William Shakespeare: The Shakespeare North Playhouse in Prescot, Lancashire.

The playhouse will be an important addition to the UK's theatre heritage and will realign the civil parish of Prescot with its historic connection to Shakespeare, through his travelling player days. Its design has been purposefully and sensitively chosen to reflect of-the-time Elizabethan court and theatre aesthetics. With completion set to be in 2022,

the Shakespeare North Playhouse will have a 350-seat theatre alongside a contemporary outdoor performance garden, exhibition and visitor centre and educational facilities. CPI EuroMix is working with contractor Kier and brickwork contractor Stock Brickwork on this Knowsley Council project, which is designed by architect Helm Architecture. CPI has been tasked with supplying its natural and mahogany shades of mortar to site using its silo mixing stations.

The mixing stations can hold up to 35 tonnes of dry mortar, producing a readily-made product at the flick of a switch. 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. Different shades of mortar may also be specified – as in the case of this project – to meet the design needs of the architects.

Its ability to offer high-grade mortar alongside its silo mixing stations, means CPI EuroMix can ensure that projects benefit from quality mortars with high bond and compressive strength, durability and consistent colour.

NHBC Training Hub off to good start

The NHBC construction industry training hub, opened in May this year, has started well with 18 trainees on its bricklaying apprentice course.

Located in Tamworth alongside a working building site, NHBC is supported by the site's operator Redrow and the Tamworth Borough Council. Apprenticeships run for 18 months and are a mix of theoretical and practical training at the hub and on-site experience for the trainees back with their own employers.

Chairman of the MPA Mortar executive committee, Stuart Russell, after a recent visit to the hub with MPA Mortar manager, Mick Russell, said:

'MPA Mortar is pleased to support the NHBC apprentice bricklayer training hub at Tamworth. This is the first of hopefully many centres to be established by the NHBC to address the widespread shortage of

bricklayers coming into the industry.

With more retiring or leaving the industry than starting, the number of qualified bricklayers is diminishing annually and this underlines the need for real action in order to address the problem. This is a first class set up by the NHBC, which will give the apprentices a great kickstart to their careers ahead.

'Having only seen the pre- set up location it was great to finally see the finished article and the apprentices in action. NHBC should be commended for this initiative and hopefully it is the first of many to help support the industry for years to come.'

Apprentice Harry Jones (20) who works for Bellway Homes is enthusiastic about the course too. 'I found that having an initial five-weeks training at the hub before I went out on site meant I was much more use when I actually arrived at site compared to others

without that experience.' He said he also found working hours at the hub - 7.45 am to 4.30 pm - meant he was better prepared for subsequent working on site.



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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.