

## Cement Shortages in the Ontario Marketplace

Ontario's ready mixed concrete industry has been experiencing unprecedented challenges regarding the supply of raw materials required to produce concrete in 2022. The demand for construction materials remains at an all-time high, both in Ontario and in the adjacent provinces and states that we border, and global supply chain issues, combined with equipment and labour shortages, are having a very detrimental impact on our industry's ability to meet all the concrete needs in the Ontario marketplace.

These issues are further compounded by three of the five cement plants in Ontario having significant equipment break-downs that have required emergency repairs. All of these issues identified above have resulted in very significant raw material shortages that have dramatically impacted the ability of the concrete industry to produce concrete and will likely result in the closure of multiple concrete plants around the province for at least one week.

Since cement allocation and aggregate supply disruptions were taking place prior to this emergency situation, it is expected that raw material supply constraints may continue throughout the remainder of 2022. Concrete Ontario strongly encourages the entire construction industry to work closely with their concrete supplier to address realistic supply schedules and to coordinate the deliveries of large concrete placements or placements with significant quantities of supplementary cementing materials (SCMs). This improved project coordination should include:

- Coordinate with your concrete producer on a weekly basis for all critical path concrete placement items. These items should be scheduled with the concrete producer **at least 7 – 10 days in advance of the scheduled placement date.**
- Increasing the level of communication for specialty raw materials or high volumes of SCMs. Lead times are now often measured in **months** rather than **days** for specialty admixtures, fibers and colour.
- Identify if the concrete plant has reduced service hours or is closed due to a lack of raw materials and if this will impact current construction schedules.

Open and clear communications will be required over the coming months to address the challenges that we all face together, but our experiences from the past two years have shown us that these short-term challenges can be addressed.

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