Materials catalogue
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A library of information for all construction professionals

This updated CD ROM compilation gives you access to a huge training resource of practical guidance and expertise from BRE. It contains over 150 BRE Good Building and Repair Guides in pdf format, which cover a range of topics, including: achieving airtightness, basement construction, fixing and finishing plasterboard, installing thermal insulation, loft conversion, plastering, radon protection, roofing and water services.

AP 281, 2016 edition  NEW

Material resource efficiency in construction
Supporting a circular economy

Improve your material resource efficiency and benefit from cost savings, reduced environmental impact and an enhanced company reputation. This guide provides practical advice for all involved in construction projects, especially clients, designers and contractors.

FB 85  COMING SOON

Assessing the performance of Phase Change Materials in buildings

Get inside knowledge about Phase Change Materials (latent heat technology) and how they are being used in building applications. Find out what PCMs are, how they work, their benefits, current technical developments and available products.

FB 84  COMING SOON

Performance and durability of concrete made using lower carbon belite-ye’elimite-ferrite cement

The pressure to reduce energy consumption and CO₂ emissions during cement manufacture has led to the development of novel cements based on alternative clinkers with intrinsically lower energy requirements and CO₂ emissions on manufacture than conventional Portland cement clinkers. This report focuses on Lafarge-patented Aether cements.

BR 512  NEW

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Non-traditional houses

Identifying non-traditional houses in the UK 1918-75

A wealth of information and advice is brought together in this comprehensive, highly illustrated CD ROM on non-traditional houses. This unique classified reference details 450 house types, with isometric drawings, photos and supporting material.

AP 294  BEST-SELLER

The Green Guide to Specification

Need to reduce the environmental impact of your buildings? This guide is your essential tool for the informed and responsible selection of construction materials and components.

BR 501, 4th edition  BEST-SELLER

Multi-storey timber frame buildings

A design guide

This guide documents the results and lessons learned from research conducted on the world’s first six-storey timber building using the platform-frame technique of construction. It will be of interest to all building professionals responsible for the design and construction of multi-storey timber-frame buildings.

BR 454  BEST-SELLER

Recognising wood rot and insect damage in buildings

This best-selling pocket book, now in its third edition, has been improved by the addition of guidance on types of fungal growths, which, though less regularly encountered in buildings, nonetheless confuse correct identification and mislead diagnosis. It also has a short section on termites. The book retains its highly popular spiral-bound format, giving clear and authoritative guidance on the process of inspecting buildings for timber damage and on the identification of causal agencies.

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Earth building
History, science and conservation
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Sustainable masonry construction
Can masonry provide durable, sustainable buildings? Get an up-to-date analysis of how masonry can not only match sustainability targets set by government but go beyond them to provide the lowest possible environmental impact now and in the future.
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Design and construction guidelines
Improve your understanding of one of the oldest and most widespread building materials. This extensively illustrated guide to earth masonry provides guidance on using earth brick (a material of low embodied carbon and near-zero waste) to produce durable buildings that fit their climate and are suited to a wide range of uses.

EP 80  BEST-SELLER

Concrete in aggressive ground
This Special Digest provides practical guidance on the specification of concrete for installation in natural ground and in brownfield locations. The procedures given for ground assessment and concrete specification cover the fairly common occurrence of sulfates, sulfides and acids. The more rarely occurring aggressive CO₂ found in some ground- and surfacewaters is also included.

SD 1  BEST-SELLER

Design of normal concrete mixes
The second edition of this best-selling book remains the standard guide on concrete mix design. Amendments have been made to allow for changes in the terminology and materials used and changes in various British Standards.

BR 331, 2nd edition  BEST-SELLER

Design of durable concrete structures
Understand the complex phenomena governing durability and long-term performance of concrete structures, as a basis for service-life design, focusing on the behaviour of the structure and its interaction with its environment.

FB 70  BEST-SELLER

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Calcium aluminates
Proceedings of the International Conference 2014
The proceedings of the international conference on calcium aluminates held in Avignon, France, in May 2014. Includes papers from Europe, Canada, the U.S., Japan, Brazil, Australia and South Africa.

EP 104

Calcium sulfoaluminate cements
CO₂ reduction, concrete properties and applications
The manufacture of calcium sulfoaluminate cements requires less energy than conventional Portland cements and produces lower CO₂ emissions. This report presents background information on these cements, and reports on practical work to assess their performance in concrete.

BR 496

Applications, performance characteristics and environmental benefits of alkali-activated binder concretes
Learn more about alkali-activated binders, which use less energy and produce less CO₂ than conventional Portland cement (PC). These binders also offer flexibility in materials sourcing and can give better durability to sulfates and acid than PC.

DG 530

Effects of chemical, physical and mechanical processes on concrete
Get an overview of the main considerations in designing, specifying and executing durable concrete in order to ensure that it continues to perform in aggressive environments without premature deterioration or unplanned maintenance.

DG 527
Assessment of timber structures
This Digest considers the structural role of the timber element, which can give an indication of its adequacy. It covers the inspection and appraisal of timber structures (roofs and floors) for signs of deterioration, modification and defects. It also provides information about biological attack of timber (insects and fungal decay).

DG 517

Specifying structural timber
Get up-to-date guidance on how to correctly specify timber at the design stage so that it is more likely to be supplied and fitted without trouble and will give better service throughout the life of the building. This Digest also provides a guide to the fuller information contained in relevant standards, Eurocode 5 and other documents.

DG 416, 2014 edition

Modified wood
An introduction to products in UK construction
Modified wood products add to the architect’s and design engineer’s resources by offering aesthetically pleasing materials with enhanced performance characteristics that extend maintenance intervals and hence add value for the building owner. This Digest reviews the modified wood products that are already being used in the UK construction market and the technologies that create them. It discusses the future for modified wood products, particularly in cladding, decking and flooring for domestic and commercial buildings.

DG 504

External timber structures
Preservative treatment and durability
This Digest provides guidance on appropriate and enhanced specifications of timber preservatives, with additional measures for maximising the service life of timber. It takes account of new types of preservative that are available, and guidance in recent BRE publications, British Standards and other industry publications.

DG 503

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Environmental impact of biomaterials and biomass
Understand the significant benefits and impacts of biomaterials and biomass over their whole life cycle and identify opportunities for improvements to their environmental performance. This report reviews how biomaterials and biomass have been assessed within The Green Guide to Specification.

FB 67

Environmental impact of windows
Understand the significant benefits and impacts of windows over their whole life cycle and identify opportunities for improvements to their environmental performance. This report reviews how window units and frames have been assessed within The Green Guide to Specification.

FB 66

Environmental impact of brick, stone and concrete
Understand the significant benefits and impacts of brick, stone and concrete over their whole life cycle and identify opportunities for improvements to their environmental performance. This report reviews how these materials have been assessed within The Green Guide to Specification.

FB 58

Environmental impact of metals
Understand the significant benefits and impacts of metals over their life cycle and identify opportunities for improvements to their environmental performance. This report reviews how metals have been assessed within The Green Guide to Specification.

FB 57
Environmental impact of floor finishes
Incorporating The Green Guide ratings for floor finishes
Understand the significant benefits and impacts of floor finishes over their whole life cycle and identify opportunities for improvements to their environmental performance. This report reviews how floor finishes have been assessed within The Green Guide to Specification, and includes the ratings for floor finishes.

FB 39

Environmental impact of vertical cladding
Understand the significant benefits and impacts of external wall cladding products over their whole life cycle and identify opportunities for improvements to their environmental performance. This report reviews how external wall cladding materials have been assessed within The Green Guide to Specification.

FB 38

Environmental impact of insulation
Understand the significant benefits and impacts of insulation products over their whole life cycle and identify opportunities for improvements to their environmental performance. This report reviews how insulation materials have been assessed within The Green Guide to Specification.

FB 37

Natural fibre-reinforced polymers (NFRPs) in the construction industry
Fibre-reinforced polymers are being increasingly used in the construction industry. This Information Paper discusses their specific benefits and the factors that are influential to their wider utilisation.

IP 14/14
Low-impact building materials
IP 14/11: Hemp lime
IP 15/11: Straw bale
IP 16/11: Unfired clay masonry
IP 17/11: Cross-laminated timber (CLT)
IP 18/11: Natural fibre insulation
Learn about the use of low-impact construction materials with these introductory guides. This five-part set covers hemp lime, straw bale, unfired clay masonry, cross-laminated timber and natural fibre insulation.

AP 289, 5-part set

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AP 243, 6-part set
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Concrete in construction
Concrete materials, applications and performance (AP 299)

Timber in construction
Timber materials, applications and performance (AP 300)

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