

slag Successes

News and Information about the Iron and Steel Slag Industry

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Flatwork concrete that can withstand Michigan's temperature ups and downs.

Detroit's Edw. C. Levy Co.
answers the call.

Some of the country's most severe freeze/thaw cycles take place in the upper Midwest, especially in Michigan. The effects of Michigan's weather can have detrimental effects on flatwork concrete such as sidewalks, driveways and patios that are exposed to the elements, creating problems for concrete contractors and owners alike.

During winters, the repeated freezing and thawing cycles frequently result in surface defects, referred to as "pop outs" appearing on the surface of the finished concrete.

To help prevent the occurrence of surface defects, Detroit's Edw. C. Levy Co. supplies a premium 17A (ASTM 67) Blast Furnace Slag coarse aggregate. One Detroit area contractor has had such success with Blast Furnace Slag aggregate that he uses nothing else in his outdoor flatwork, as it virtually eliminates the occurrence of pop outs in the concrete.

**What's the difference between
Blast Furnace Slag and other
coarse aggregates?**

Natural gravel and limestone coarse aggregates used in concrete



A residential driveway constructed in 1996 using 17A Blast Furnace Slag concrete to eliminate pop outs.

typically contain a percentage of deleterious soft and chert (absorbable) particles. During thawing cycles they absorb water. Then with the next freeze the absorbed water expands causing a pop out on the surface of the concrete.

According to Richard Lehman, Levy's Vice President Aggregates Marketing, Jim Gasparott, owner of J.L. Gasparott, Inc. of Farmington Hills, Michigan, who has been in the concrete business for 40 years, made the switch to Blast Furnace Slag over five years ago. Frustrated with pop outs in concrete made with natural coarse aggregates, he tested Levy's Blast Furnace Slag. His discovery: no more pop outs, ease of finishing and no call-backs to correct the pop outs. Bet on it, Jim Gasparott is using Blast Furnace Slag in more than 300 drive-



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ways and walkways he pours each year throughout Metro Detroit.

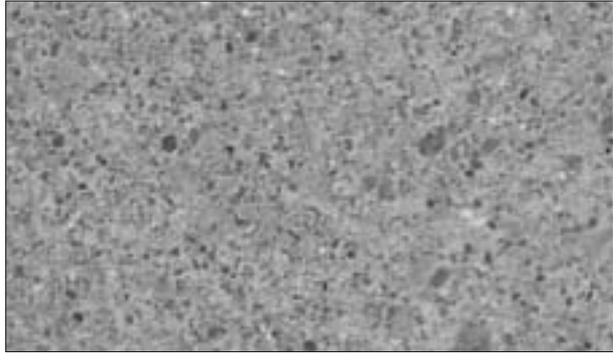
His faith in Levy slag extends to the builders he supplies. “The builders that I work with know they won’t have a problem with pop outs,” said Gasparott.

What makes blast furnace slag so durable?

Used for more than 60 years in concrete road paving, asphalt paving, road base materials, and many other construction applications, its durability comes from the unique physical and chemical properties acquired at over 2700°F during formation in the blast furnace.

Slag aggregate consists primarily of the silica and alumina originating from iron ore, combined with calcium and magnesium oxides from the flux stone used in the production of slag in the blast furnace. The slag produced by Levy for concrete flatwork is air-cooled Blast Furnace Slag.

The molten Blast Furnace Slag which comes from the furnace resembling lava is then cooled and solidified either adjacent to the furnace or at a remote location. After the slag has sufficiently cooled, it is excavated using a specially equipped front-end loader and transported to a pro-



The surface of a residential driveway placed in 1977 using Blast Furnace Slag coarse aggregate – no surface defects.

cessing facility to be crushed and sized into the desired products.

Concrete made using 17A Blast Furnace Slag coarse aggregate is easy to work and finish as the majority of particles are sized to be less than 3/4”. And, of course, there are no pop outs as Blast Furnace Slag contains no deleterious soft or chert particles.

“As a result of years of research, stringent quality control procedures and proven field performance, Blast Furnace Slag has been proven to be one of the best performing construction aggregates available on the market,” says Lehman.

“Our customers demand the best. So do we, and our commitment to quality shows in the out-

standing performance of all Levy products.”

All flatwork contractors should see for themselves how Blast Furnace Slag aggregate concrete can improve the performance of their products. Call your ready-mix suppliers today and order it for your next project.

Adds Levy’s Lehman, “Concrete made with 17A blast furnace slag aggregate has proven unequaled in quality, strength and durability. Once concrete flatwork contractors use concrete made with our slag, they will never want to use any other concrete mix.”

This is another Slag Success Story brought to you by the National Slag Association.

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