Sand, Gravel, and Crushed Stone ("Aggregates") are Essential for Making Cement, Concrete, and Asphalt, the Basic Building Blocks of Our Buildings and Roads

Twice as Much Concrete is Used Worldwide than all Other Building Materials Combined!

What is the Difference Between Cement, Concrete, and Asphalt?

Cement:
A fine powder made by combining limestone and other minerals, which then becomes the “glue” in making concrete.

Concrete:
Made by combining cement, water, sand and gravel.

Asphalt:
Asphalt pavement is approximately 95% aggregates, and 5% asphalt cement as a binder. The binder is a product of oil refining that acts to "glue" the aggregates together.

Aggregates are Used in Thousands of Everyday Applications:

Infrastructure
Highways
Bridges
Roads
Streets
Homes
Schools
Hospitals
Shopping Centers
Airports
Railroads
Rapid Transit
Ports
Tunnels
Dams
Commercial and Government Buildings
Sewer Systems
Water Purification and Sewage Treatment

Environmental Protection
Soil erosion control programs along rivers and shorelines
Reduction of sulfur dioxide emissions generated by electric power plants
Beach replenishment
Water storage
Spawning beds
Flood control
Groundwater replenishment
Recycling

Agriculture
Agricultural Crops
Remineralization of soils in agriculture and forests for healthy soil and growth

Homes and Buildings
Much of our homes and buildings are made up of aggregates or of items that include aggregates:
Carpet Backing
Fireplace
Bricks
Foundation
Toilets, Sinks and Bathtubs
Windows
Roofing Tiles and Shingles
Plaster
Wallboard
Glass
Marble
Sandstone
Granite
Insulation
Concrete Pipes
Paving Stones

Footnote:
1 Cement Association of Canada