



Our lives would not be the same without

limestone

One of the Most Versatile and Widely Used Minerals in the World

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Beginning with construction and road-building uses in Roman times, its utility has multiplied in our modern world to include feeding animals, cleaning the air, building homes, and improving our diets.

California's past and present are closely linked to limestone as a construction material to build the state. It is also important regionally as feed for poultry and livestock, soil amendments for croplands, and glass-making to support farm communities. In addition, California has several select deposits that allow our State to make a unique contribution to air quality, nutrition, and everyday products throughout California and the world.

Why is limestone so useful? It has properties of purity, whiteness, brightness, low hardness and reactivity that allow it to be applied in many processes and ingredients.

These are a few of the ways limestone contributes to our lives:

Building our Homes and Cities

Limestone is one of the key ingredients in making cement, the powder that binds rock and water to make concrete. To make cement requires a nearby limestone deposit. Reliable and nearby sources of limestone, and consequently cement, make it possible to build and grow in a sustainable manner.



Improving our Farming

The calcium in limestone provides an important feed supplement for cattle and poultry to help produce milk, eggs, and meat products. It is also applied to soils to reduce acidity and improve crop yields. California is fortunate to have regional supplies of limestone to support our farmers.

Making Glass

Limestone is essential to glass-making, including windows, bottles, windshields, and the fiberglass insulating your home. Again, local sources of limestone support viticulture in California by making wine bottles locally.

Cleaning our Air

Electric power plants rely on local supplies of limestone to keep plants clean and reduce air emissions. It is the scrubbing agent that removes sulfur dioxide, mercury and other gases from smokestacks.

Adding Nutrients

High quality limestone, such as found in California, is a source of calcium in foods and vitamins. Foods where limestone adds calcium include breads, granola bars, cereal, infant formula, pasta, pet food, tofu, yogurt, graham crackers, baking mixes, waffles...the uses grow daily. It also has many uses in making antacids and medicine tablets.

Affordable Roofs

Asphalt roof shingles are the most economic roofing product available today, and limestone is a key ingredient. Limestone in roofing reduces the use of asphalt, adds fire resistance, and lowers cost.

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Cleaning Our Water

Limestone is used as a filter to purify drinking water and neutralize lakes subject to acid rain. It is also used to treat bio-solids in sewage, as well as industrial sludges and petroleum wastes. It does this by controlling the growth of pathogens in bio-solids and converting sludges into usable products.

Bringing Paper to Life

The many qualities of limestone improve paper by adding brightness, opaqueness, smoothness, strength, and dryness, as well as making environmentally friendlier paper products, such as non-acidic papers. It is essential in the making of graphic papers, paperboard for milk cartons and juice containers, magazines, annual reports, and pizza boxes.

Durable Paints

A paint product is about 20-30% limestone. Limestone provides durability, color, sheen, gloss, non-toxicity, weather resistance, and low abrasiveness. It is an important reason why paints can be made to adhere to such varying surfaces as walls, appliances, furniture, children's bikes and wagons, cars, bridges, and ships.

Everyday Products

Probably every day you are using a product that is stronger, more durable, warps less, dampens sound better, and less costly because of limestone. These are only a few of the applications: window frames, fences, home siding, PVC pipes, computer keyboards, automotive dials, car upholstery, electric wires, TV cables, automotive gaskets, clear packaging and food wrap, car exteriors and interiors, trash and garbage bags, large garbage cans, food containers, bathroom cleaners, shoe polish, and diaper film.

Joining and Sealing Our Lives

Limestone seals the gaps in our homes and cars to prevent moisture and gas seepage, and dampen sound. Adherents and sealants composed of limestone can be found under auto bodies, in insulated glass windows, between steel and glass in buildings, and between pre-cast concrete panels. They are commonly known as putty, caulk, joint compound, epoxy, urethane, silicone, acrylic, and vinyl acetate.

A Staple of Construction

Don't look now, but you may well be standing on carpeting, tile, or vinyl flooring made of limestone compounds. It is probably in the stucco on your home's exterior, in the tape sealing your home's sheet rock, the concrete and masonry work in your home, the lining of your swimming pool or spa, in shower stalls and in bathroom sinks, and throughout your home in pipe conduit, grout, and mortar!

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