

SOILS

POZZOLANA

ORIGIN

Pozzolana also known as pozzolanic ash (*pulvis puteolanus* in Latin), consists of a combination of natural residues in volcanic zones, such as natural siliceous or siliceous and aluminous material, and can be located at different levels of depth. In the Azores, the only region of Portugal where this type of material exists, Pozzolana can be found throughout the subsoil and is currently extracted for the purpose of manufacturing cement.

CHARACTERISTICS

This type of soil, over many generations, was typically identified by local populations as "terra" (or "earth"), and could be mixed with lime and other inert materials for a variety of uses. After being prepared, applied and dried, this type of mortar effectively exhibits a texture and color similar to the common "earth". However, what truly sets this type of mortar apart from the typical plasters and cement molds is its resistance and low reaction to sodium and humidity. These characteristics are particularly important in the insular context of the Azores, due to the islands' permanent contact with salt, moisture and water.

APPLICATIONS

Its main uses in the region's building & construction industry include:

- Low cost masonry structures
- Components of coastal infrastructures
- Architecture and design

PUMICE

ORIGIN

Pumice is a volcanic rock that consists of highly vesicular rough textured volcanic glass that is created when super-heated, highly pressurized rock is violently ejected from a volcano.

CHARACTERISTICS

Pumice is commonly pale in color, ranging from white, cream, blue or grey, to green-brown or even black. The unusual foamy configuration of pumice happens because of simultaneous rapid cooling and rapid depressurization that freezes the bubbles in a matrix. These particles are typically gravel-sized and may vary in thickness depending on their vicinity to the eruptive centers of the central volcanoes.

APPLICATIONS

Its main uses in the region's building & construction industry include:

- Formation of construction aggregates by crushing or grinding
- Formation of cement, blocks and concrete
- Fill
- Rural and forest paths
- Artificial soils
- Abrasive components



COFINANCIAMENTO:



PROTEÇÃO
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