

Limestone, Gravel and Sand Fast Facts

Limestone is:

- A hard sedimentary rock composed largely of the mineral compound calcium carbonate (CaCO_3)
- Formed by deposition of the skeletons of marine animals such as corals
- Usually white but may be coloured by impurities e.g. iron oxide making it brown
- Used as an ingredient in cement and source of lime, as a building stone, for ornamentation and glass manufacture
- Used as a flux in zinc, copper and lead smelting.

For more information on limestone see [Wikipedia](#)



Limestone – Image courtesy of Mineral Information Institute

Gravel is:

- A rock of a certain particle size range 2mm-75mm
- Formed as a result of weathering and erosion of rocks
- Called conglomerate when it is compacted
- Also produced by quarrying and crushing hardwearing rocks such as sandstone, limestone or basalt
- An important commercial product used on roadways and in landscaping.

For more information on gravel see [Wikipedia](#).



Gravel – Image courtesy of Queensland Resources Council

Sand is:

- Composed of naturally occurring material composed of finely ground rock and mineral particles
- Mainly the chemical compound silica SiO_2 usually in the form of quartz
- Transported by wind and water and deposited on beaches, dunes, sand pits and sand bars
- Ranged and graded in size from 0.063mm to 2mm
- The principle component of cement
- Used for moulds for sand casting
- Principle component in glass and brick manufacturing.

For more information on sand see [Wikipedia](#)



Sand – Image courtesy of Queensland Resources Council

