“Quite simply, this standard (C1798) recognizes unused concrete in a fresh state as a potential ingredient for a new concrete batch,” says ASTM member. “In other words, recycled fresh concrete can be treated as a raw-material component, just like water, aggregates and cement.”
Did You Know?

Leftover Concrete
- Approximately 2 – 8 % of concrete produced in California is returned.
- Until recently, the leftover concrete has often been sent to local landfills.
- CalEPA has estimated that unused concrete results in 2.2 million pounds of excess carbon emissions/year.

Environmental Impact
- In addition to consuming our landfills, the disposal of leftover concrete:
  - Increases water usage.
  - Wastes the natural resources used to produce the concrete.
  - Transportation to and from the landfill impacts our roads and neighborhoods and increases GHG emissions.

In Use Today
- Concrete producers are reusing returned concrete to produce construction blocks.
- With the release of ASTM C1798 Specification for Returned Fresh Concrete, concrete producers can easily reuse and recycle returned concrete into new, batched concrete.
- Caltrans has “green lighted” the use of returned, fresh concrete.
- Common applications include: Fill, soil stabilization piles, minor concrete, site work, pads, bank protection, noise barriers, center dividers, footings, fill in metal decks, utilization in other general concrete mix designs.

ARE YOU IN COMPLIANCE?

Assembly Bill AB 2355: Local governments: Streets and Highways: Recycled Materials
“This bill requires, by January 1, 2017, a local government that has jurisdiction over a street or highway to either adopt the standards developed by the Department of Transportation for recycled paving materials and for recycled base, subbase, and pervious backfill materials, or discuss why it is not adopting those standards at a public hearing.”

ASTM C1798: A CLOSER LOOK

C1798: Standard Specification for Returned Concrete for Use in a New Batch of Ready-Mixed Concrete
“This standard recognizes unused concrete, in a fresh state, as an ingredient for a new batch of concrete and outlines all the processes, verification requirements and recording procedures to guarantee the highest levels of quality.”

CALTRANS PROCESS

2015 Revised Standard Specifications (RSS) 90-9
RSS 90-9 contains language allowing the addition of up to 15% returned plastic concrete (RPC) to fresh concrete. Specific uses allowed are outlined in the Specification.

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Ask us about these other sustainable solutions:
- Low Carbon Mixes with SCMs
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