

Aggregates and America's Infrastructure

The National Stone, Sand & Gravel Association (NSSGA) represents the producers of aggregates (stone, sand, gravel and industrial sand), along with the equipment manufacturer and service providers that support them. These materials are the building blocks of our infrastructure—used in nearly all residential, commercial and industrial construction.

Aggregates are an essential component of national and state economic development as they form the base of our homes, schools, businesses and everything illustrated below, like windmills, windows, waterpipes, bridges and roads. Because aggregates are crucial for society and our American way of life, it is imperative that communities have reliable access to these essential materials. Next to water, aggregates are the second highest used resource on the planet. Without affordable and readily available aggregates, we won't be able to move America's infrastructure forward and live how we want now and in the future.

CITIES AND HIGHWAYS

- Roughly **44%** of all aggregates produced goes toward public works projects, like dams, buildings, sewer systems and more
- Roughly **1.5 billion metric tons** of aggregates are used **across the interstate system**
- **38,000 tons** of aggregates is required for one mile of highway
- Silica sand is a critical component for building windows and makes up about **63% of glass**

NEIGHBORHOODS AND SCHOOLS

- Aggregates are **essential** to homebuilding as **almost 500 tons** are used to build a new home, including driveways, sidewalks, basements, cul de sacs and other neighborhood foundations
- Building a new school requires at least **3,000 cubic yards** of ready-mix concrete

WIND TURBINES

- Approximately **6 million tons of aggregates** is used nationally to build wind turbines each year
- Each individual turbine utilizes **700 cubic yards of concrete** composed of **650 tons of aggregates and 500 tons of sand**

AIRPORTS

- The **cumulative total of aggregates** needed to maintain and build airports each year amounts to **over 9.4 million tons**
- Roughly **535,000 square yards of concrete** is needed for a new airport runway: the equivalent needed for a 16-mile stretch of two-lane highway

BRIDGES

- Bridges **use more than 3.8 million tons** of aggregates on average each year

WATERLINES

- **30 million tons of crushed stone and other aggregates** that make up concrete is used to build and maintain waterlines each year

ROADS

- **Over 1 billion tons of aggregates** are used nationally each year for road construction and maintenance