

## **The Right CEMENT**

Cement is the most important building material for any construction work. It should be selected based on the age-wise strength, exposure conditions and durability requirements.

The following are the commercially available Cements:

- Ordinary Portland Cements(OPC) of 43 & 53Grade,
- Blended Cements viz. Portland Pozzolana Cement (PPC) and Portland Slag Cement (PSC).
- Sulphate Resisting Cement, White Cement and Low Heat Portland Cement are also being produced in smaller scale.

Ordinary Portland Cements: OPC (43 and 53 Grade) can be used in all kind of Concrete constructions – such as RCC, precast concrete and prestressed concrete, Slip form constructions, all kinds of Masonry works, manufacture of cement based products such as pipes, tiles, blocks etc. OPC 53Gr. Cement is more suitable where high early strength is necessary viz. for production of High Strength/ High Performance Concretes and for Rehabilitation/ Retrofitting works.

Blended Cements can be used for all general construction works, especially for works in aggressive environmental conditions particularly in coastal areas to counteract chloride and sulphate attacks, water retaining structures, marine works, sewage pipes, mass concrete works such as dams, etc., substructures in sulphatic soils and structures in hot and humid climate.

### **WHAT CONSUMER SHOULD CHECK -**

- Check for the Week No., Month and Year of manufacturing printed on the bag
- For cement stored for 90 days or more from the date of manufacturing, should be tested for its compressive strength before use.
- Check whether the BIS monogram (ISI mark), Type of Cement, Grade of Cement (not applicable for PPC & PSC), IS code, Brand Name, MRP and Net Quantity has been printed legibly on the cement bags.
- Have a random check on the bag weight to confirm accurate weight of 50kg.
- Ensure that the cement bags have not been tampered with.
- Select good quality cement of a reputed brand like UltraTech