Aggregates in Our Lives

What is Aggregate?

Aggregate is stone, sand and gravel used in construction and products in everyday life. It is used in everything from the buildings we live and work in, to the toothpaste we use daily. Aggregates are the foundation of our economy – an impressive contribution for something as small as a grain of sand.

On average, approximately 164 million tonnes of aggregate are used in Ontario each year.

That's about 12 tonnes annually per person

Where Does Aggregate Come From?

Aggregates are only found in places where nature put them.

- When solid rock material is extracted for aggregate it is called a **quarry**.
- **Pits** are located in areas where glaciers left deposits of sand and gravel.
- Pits and quarries operate above and/or below the groundwater table.

Aggregates in Our Lives

Aggregate Use in Numbers

- The average brick home requires 250 tonnes of aggregate (12 truckloads).
- The average school needs 13,000 tonnes of aggregate (650 truckloads).
- One kilometre of a six-lane road uses 51,800 tonnes of aggregate (2,590 truckloads).
- One kilometre or a subway needs 91,200 tonnes of aggregate (4,560 truckloads).

Gravel Facts

- 90% of all aggregates are used within 80 km of where they are produced.
- In Ontario, 745,454 tonnes of stone, sand and gravel are delivered to job sites each day.

Stone, Sand & Gravel Economics and Jobs

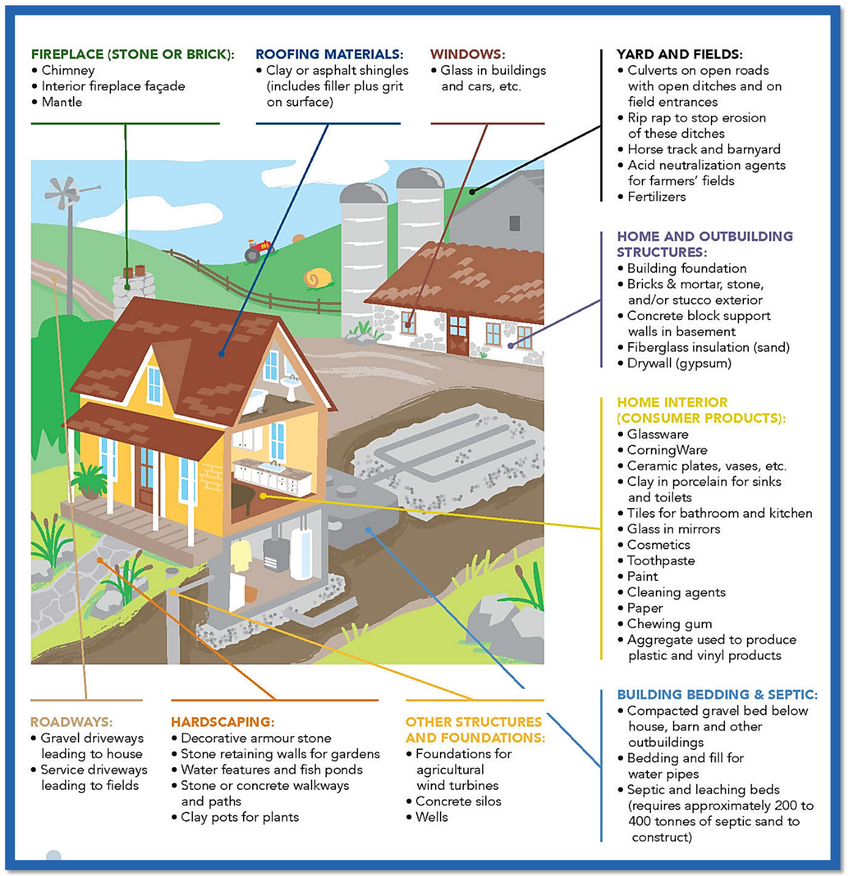
- The industry contributes $1.6 billion to Ontario's GDP.
- Virtually every job and every home in Ontario relies on stone, sand and gravel.
- Annual contribution of aggregate to the Ontario GDP $1.6 billion.
- The aggregate industry creates 7,000 direct jobs and 34,000 indirect jobs.
- Approximately 4 additional jobs created for each quarry job in related fields: environmental consultants, equipment manufacturers, and more.

Protecting the Environment

- Aggregate industry is one of the cleanest, and highly regulated industries in Ontario.
- 25 pieces of legislation protect environment and future resources.
- Producers often go beyond requirements to protect wildlife.
- 293+ hectares of aquatic habitat created in rehabilitated pits and quarries.
- 1000+ hectares rehabilitated to nature, agricultural and recreational use each year.

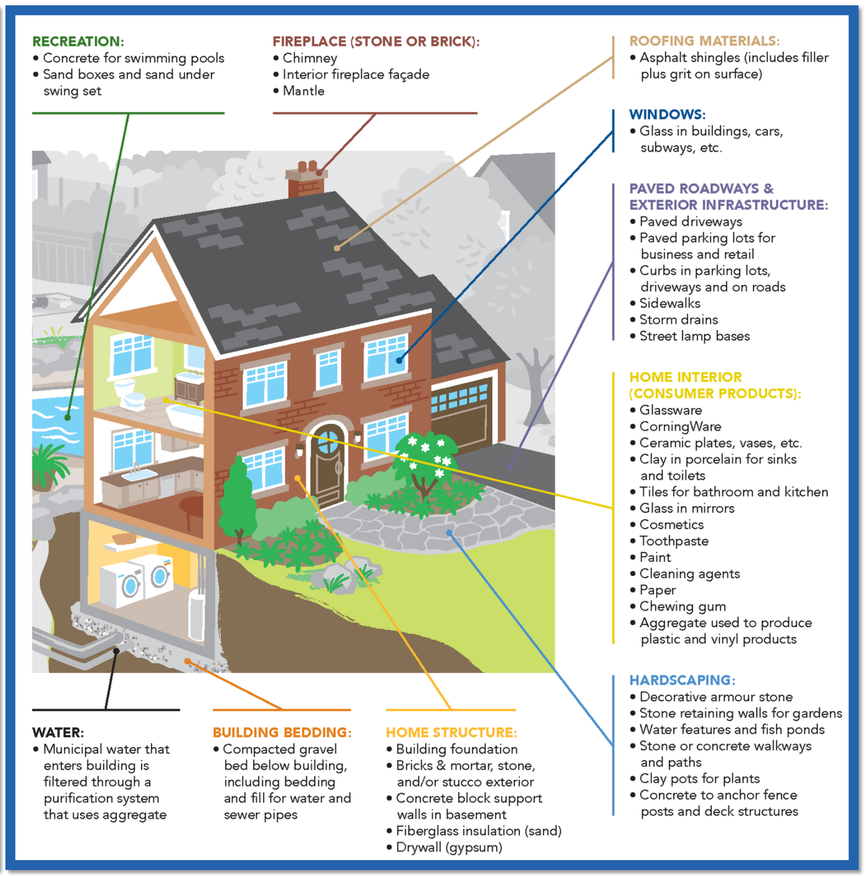
Where is Aggregate Used?

Discover how stone, sand and gravel are used in rural, urban and suburban environments with the infographics below



Rural Environment

Urban Environment



Suburban Environment

Source: Ontario Stone, Sand & Gravel Association – www.GravelFacts.ca