



## About the Coalition

The Concrete Home Building Coalition—part of the National Association of Home Builders—is the building industry's one-stop resource for all cement-based building materials and systems—including foundations and basements, driveways, sidewalks and patios, decorative and stamped concrete, above-grade wall systems, and cement-based siding, roofing, and clay brick.

The Coalition is part of the Building Systems Councils, representing the systems-built housing industry across the country.

To contact the Concrete Home Building Coalition, visit [www.nahb.org/concrete](http://www.nahb.org/concrete) or call 1-800-368-5242, x8576.

## Online Resources

Concrete Home Building Coalition  
[www.nahb.org/Concrete](http://www.nahb.org/Concrete)  
1-800-368-5242 x8576

Directory of additional supporting resources  
[www.nahb.org/ConcreteDirectory](http://www.nahb.org/ConcreteDirectory)

Video on types and techniques  
[www.nahb.org/ConcreteVideo](http://www.nahb.org/ConcreteVideo)

For training: Home Builders Institute  
[www.hbi.org/Concrete](http://www.hbi.org/Concrete)  
1-800-795-7955 x8928



National Association  
of Home Builders

120115th Street NW, Washington, DC 20005  
[www.NAHB.org](http://www.NAHB.org)

National Association of Home Builders



**Concrete Building Systems**  
A Winning Mix for Home Building:  
Strength, Speed, and Flexibility



[www.nahb.org/Concrete](http://www.nahb.org/Concrete)

# Concrete on the Rise

# Why Use Concrete Construction?



All builders, from the country's largest production companies to the smallest custom home builder, have used concrete in their homes. From driveways and walkways to segmental retaining walls and pools, concrete has been an essential home building material for the past century.

Recently, concrete construction has risen, literally, to new heights. Above-grade concrete wall systems accounted for just 3 percent of new home above-grade wall systems in 1993; that figure jumped to more than 13 percent in 2004. Whole-house concrete construction is now firmly established and accepted.

## Converting to Concrete Construction

The Concrete Home Building Coalition can provide home builders, general contractors, and subcontractors with the information necessary to ease conversion of their home building practices after years of wood frame experience.

The CHBC, in conjunction with its association and industry partners, offers an array of training courses to ease the conversion, including half-day, full-day, and ongoing educational opportunities in above-grade wall systems, concrete mix design, best practices, and more. See the resources section for more information.

The CHBC has also hosted Concrete Technologies Tours, designed to give industry neophytes the insider information and resources necessary to succeed in residential concrete construction.

## Concrete is Green

- Concrete and masonry wall systems conserve energy through the use of thermal mass and reduced air infiltration. The continuous insulation barrier offered by most concrete wall systems reduces drafts and keeps a more even temperature throughout the house. The combination of these factors can often cut heating and cooling bills by more than 30 percent.
- Concrete is also lauded in green building circles for being made with a combination of recycled and natural products and for producing less waste.

## Benefits for Home Buyers

- Concrete is unquestionably one of the most durable building products available. Concrete homes have withstood fires, rains, floods, and hurricane-force winds with minimal or no structural damage.
- Homes built with insulated concrete walls effectively buffer the home's interior from the outside. The weight and mass of the concrete can reduce the amount of external noise entering the house by as much as two-thirds.
- Concrete construction can provide a tight thermal building envelope, which can reduce a homeowner's heating and cooling bills.



- The concrete, insulation, and steel in a concrete wall system are much more mold- and insect-resistant than traditional wood studs, joists, and wall sheathing.
- The inert properties of concrete provide a good alternative for those concerned about unhealthy airborne solvents and product residues from other common building materials.
- Many insurance companies offer lower premiums for fire-resistant concrete constructed homes.

## Benefits for Builders

- The cost of the basic components of concrete—cement, water, sand, and aggregate—are more stable than the cost of framing lumber. While lumber prices can fluctuate wildly, concrete costs have remained steady in recent years, allowing for greater planning and financial forecasting.
- Concrete construction also boosts profits by increasing the speed of construction and completion times, reducing workplace theft, and virtually eliminating call-backs. Insurance costs for concrete builders may also be lower.
- With green building and durability issues hot on consumers' minds, converting to concrete construction allows a business to further stand out from competitors.