



# **PHYSICO-MECHANICAL AND THERMAL PERFORMANCE OF SOLID CEMENT BRICKS CONTAINING WASTE TIRE RUBBER**

By

**Amr Shaban Hassan Moustafa**

A Thesis Submitted to the  
Faculty of Engineering at Cairo University  
in Partial Fulfillment of the  
Requirements for the Degree of  
**MASTER OF SCIENCE**  
in  
**Structural Engineering**

FACULTY OF ENGINEERING, CAIRO UNIVERSITY  
GIZA, EGYPT  
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**Title of Thesis:**

Physico-mechanical and thermal performance of solid cement bricks containing waste tire rubber

**Key Words:**

Tire rubber; solid cement bricks; compressive strength; thermal performance; heat/cool cycles

**Summary:**

Major environmental problems are resulted worldwide from the disposal of worn out tires that are no longer suitable for use in vehicles. Hence, it is essential to reuse/recycle this waste for clean environment. This study aims at investigating the effect of using high percentages of waste tire rubber (up to 40%) as a partial replacement of natural aggregates in the production of solid cement bricks. The characteristics of solid cement bricks including their physical and mechanical properties were determined and results were compared with the relevant standards to investigate the possibility of using this waste in the Egyptian market. In addition, the behavior of bricks after exposure to elevated temperatures and heat/cool cycles was also investigated. There is a great potential for the utilization of scrap tires in the production of solid cement bricks suitable for use as load bearing and non-load bearing units. This innovative application will open a new field for the recycling of considerable amounts of waste tire rubber for cleaner environment.

## Disclaimer

I hereby declare that this thesis is my own original work and that no part of it has been submitted for a degree qualification at any other university or institute.

I further declare that I have appropriately acknowledged all sources used and have cited them in the references section.

Name: Amr Shaban Hassan Moustafa

Date: November 2018

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## **Dedication**

I wish to dedicate this thesis to my wife for her continuous support and encouragement.

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First and foremost, praise and thanks to Almighty ALLAH, the most Gracious, the most merciful, and peace is on His Prophet, Mohamed.

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# Table of Contents

<b>DISCLAIMER.....</b>	<b>I</b>
<b>DEDICATION.....</b>	<b>II</b>
<b>ACKNOWLEDGMENTS .....</b>	<b>III</b>
<b>TABLE OF CONTENTS.....</b>	<b>IV</b>
<b>LIST OF TABLES .....</b>	<b>VII</b>
<b>LIST OF FIGURES .....</b>	<b>VIII</b>
<b>ABSTRACT .....</b>	<b>X</b>
<b>CHAPTER 1 : INTRODUCTION .....</b>	<b>1</b>
1.1.    GENERAL .....	1
1.2.    THESIS SCOPE AND OBJECTIVES .....	1
1.3.    THESIS OUTLINE.....	1
<b>CHAPTER 2 : LITERATURE REVIEW .....</b>	<b>3</b>
2.1.    NATURAL RUBBER .....	3
2.1.1.    Properties of natural rubber .....	3
2.1.2.    Natural rubber production .....	4
2.1.2.1.    Cultivation.....	5
2.1.2.2.    Collection .....	6
2.1.2.3.    Field coagula .....	7
2.1.2.4.    Processing.....	8
2.2.    SYNTHETIC RUBBER .....	9
2.2.1.    Natural rubber versus synthetic rubber.....	9
2.2.2.    History of synthetic rubber .....	9
2.3.    USES OF RUBBER.....	11
2.4.    WASTE RUBBER .....	13
2.4.1.    Classification of scrap tires.....	15
2.4.2.    Scrap Tire recycling.....	17
2.4.2.1.    Using scrap tires an alternative fuel in cement manufacturing .....	17
2.4.2.2.    Tire pyrolysis.....	18
2.4.2.3.    Tire-derived products .....	18
2.4.2.4.    Repurposing .....	19
2.4.2.5.    Recycling waste tires in asphalt.....	20
2.4.2.6.    Crumb rubber modified syntactic foam .....	21
2.4.3.    Recycling of waste tire rubber in Portland cement concrete .....	21
2.4.3.1.    Fresh concrete properties.....	22
• <i>Workability</i> .....	22
• <i>Bulk density</i> .....	23
2.4.3.2.    Hardened concrete properties .....	23
• <i>Impact resistance and ductility</i> .....	23



•	<i>Mechanical properties and behavior</i> .....	24
•	<i>Thermal resistance and noise reduction</i> .....	28
2.4.3.3.	Advantages of rubberized concrete.....	30
<b>CHAPTER 3 : EXPERIMENTAL WORK .....</b>		<b>31</b>
3.1.	GENERAL .....	31
3.2.	CHARACTERISTICS OF THE USED MATERIALS .....	31
3.2.1.	Cement.....	31
3.2.2.	Natural Aggregates .....	31
3.2.3.	Water .....	34
3.2.4.	Scrap tire rubber .....	34
3.3.	EXPERIMENTAL PROGRAM .....	36
3.3.1.	Solid Cement Bricks Mixes.....	38
3.3.2.	Production of Solid Cement Bricks .....	38
3.3.3.	Testing of bricks .....	44
3.3.3.1.	Compression Test .....	44
3.3.3.2.	Unit Weight Test .....	45
3.3.3.3.	Water absorption Test.....	45
3.3.3.4.	Effect of elevated temperatures .....	46
3.3.3.5.	Heat/cool cycles .....	46
<b>CHAPTER 4 :RESULTS AND DISCUSSION.....</b>		<b>48</b>
4.1.	GENERAL .....	48
4.2.	TESTS RESULTS.....	48
4.2.1.	Effect of rubber on the characteristics of solid cement bricks tested at room temperature .....	48
4.2.1.1.	Unit Weight .....	48
4.2.1.2.	Water Absorption .....	49
4.2.1.3.	Compressive strength .....	50
4.2.2.	Effect of rubber on the compressive strength of solid cement bricks exposed to elevated temperatures .....	53
4.2.2.1.	Visual observations .....	54
•	<i>Cracks and spalling behavior</i> .....	54
•	<i>Colour and appearance change</i> .....	54
4.2.2.2.	Compressive strength .....	55
A.	<i>Effect of temperature degree on the compressive strength of solid cement bricks exposed to elevated temperature</i> .....	55
B.	<i>Effect of exposure duration to elevated temperatures on the compressive strength of solid cement bricks</i> .....	58
C.	<i>Effect of rubber size and content on the compressive strength of solid cement bricks exposed to elevated temperature</i> .....	60
4.2.3.	Effect of rubber on the compressive strength of solid cement bricks exposed to heat/cool cycles .....	63
4.2.3.1.	Visual observations .....	63
4.2.3.2.	Compressive Strength.....	64
A.	<i>Effect of the temperature degree of heat/cool cycles on the compressive strength of solid cement bricks</i> .....	65
B.	<i>Effect of number of heat/cool cycles on the compressive strength of solid cement bricks</i> .....	67
C.	<i>Effect of rubber size and content on the compressive strength of solid cement bricks exposed to heat cycles</i> .....	69
<b>CHAPTER 5 : CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS .....</b>		<b>75</b>

5.1.	CONCLUSIONS.....	75
5.2.	RECOMMENDATIONS.....	76
<b>REFERENCES.....</b>		<b>77</b>

## List of Tables

Table (2-1): The leading natural rubber producing countries in 2013 [7].....	5
Table (2-2) typical materials used in manufacture of tire [23].....	12
Table (2-3) Composition of manufactured tires by weight [23].....	13
Table (2-4): Summary of aggregate replacement proportions in rubberized concrete [91, 99, 82 and 110] .....	27
Table (2-5): Thermal and acoustic properties of concrete [96].....	28
Table (3-1): Properties of Portland cement .....	32
Table (3-2): Properties of natural sand and crushed dolomite .....	32
Table (3-3): Chemical analysis of water .....	34
Table (3-4): Proportions of solid cement bricks mixes .....	38
Table (4-1): Unit weight of solid cement bricks .....	49

# List of Figures

Figure (2-1): Rubber latex .....	3
Figure (2-2): Chemical structure of cis-polyisoprene [1] .....	4
Figure (2-3): Process of collecting latex [1] .....	6
Figure (2-4): Mixed field coagula [8] .....	8
Figure (2-5): Smallholder's lump [8] .....	8
Figure (2-6): Removing coagulum from coagulating troughs [9] .....	8
Figure (2-7): Sheet of synthetic rubber coming off the rolling mill at the plant of Goodrich [16] .....	10
Figure (2-8): Total Municipal Solid Waste Generation in USA (United States Environmental Protection Agency, 2010) .....	14
Figure (2-9): USA scrap tire market summary [23]. .....	14
Figure (2-10): Used tires in before and after being shredded [1] .....	16
Figure (2-11): (a) Ground Rubber. (b) Shredded Rubber (waste tire chips) [35]. .....	16
Figure (2-12): various sizes of crumb and ground rubber [24]. .....	17
Figure (2-13): Underwater photo of the tires constituting Osborne Reef [140] .....	19
Figure (2-14): Slump of all mixes prepared by Su et al. [74] .....	22
Figure (2-15): The effect of rubber content, replacement type and curing age on BI [92]. .....	24
Figure (2-16): The relationship between compressive strength reduction and rubber aggregate percentage [82] .....	25
Figure (2-17): The effect of rubber size and percentage on the compressive strength of concrete [110] .....	26
Figure (2-18): The effect of rubber content on ultrasonic pulse velocity [81] .....	29
Figure (2-19): The effect of rubber content on ultrasonic modulus [81] .....	29
Figure (3-1): Grading curve for sand .....	33
Figure (3-2): Grading curve for crushed dolomite .....	33
Figure (3-5): Grading curve for coarse rubber .....	35
Figure (3-6): Grading curve for fine rubber .....	35
Figure (3-7): Outline of the experimental work .....	37
Figure (3-8): The mixer .....	39
Figure (3-9): The mechanical press .....	39
Figure (3-10): Addition of coarse aggregate .....	40
Figure (3-11): Addition of fine aggregate during the mixing process .....	40
Figure (3-12): Dry mixing of cement and aggregates .....	41
Figure (3-13): Wet mixing process .....	41
Figure (3-14): The fresh mix .....	42
Figure (3-15): The bricks after pressing .....	43
Figure (3-16): Curing process .....	44
Figure (3-17): Compression test .....	45
Figure (3-18): The bricks in the elevated temperature oven .....	46
Figure (3-19): The bricks in drying oven .....	47
Figure (4-1): Effect of rubber on the water absorption of solid cement bricks .....	50
Figure (4-2): Sample of bricks after compression test .....	52
Figure (4-3): Effect of rubber on the compressive strength of solid cement bricks at age of 28 days .....	53

Figure (4-4): Effect of rubber on the compressive strength of solid cement bricks at age of 90 days .....	53
Figure (4-5): Rubberized bricks with 40% coarse rubber exposed to 500° C elevated temperature after testing in compression.....	55
Figure (4-6): Effect of temperature degree on the compressive strength of solid cement bricks (for 1 hour).....	57
Figure (4-7): Effect of temperature degree on the compressive strength of solid cement bricks (for 2 hours) .....	57
Figure (4-11): Compressive strength of solid cement bricks after exposure to 100° C ..	59
Figure (4-12): Compressive strength of solid cement bricks after exposure to 300° C ..	59
Figure (4-13): Effect of rubber size and content on compressive strength of rubberized cement bricks exposed to 100° C .....	61
Figure (4-14): Effect of rubber size and content on compressive strength of rubberized cement bricks exposed to 300°C.....	61
Figure (4-15): Effect of rubber size and content on compressive strength of rubberized cement bricks exposed to 500° C .....	62
Figure (4-16): Sample of the bricks after exposure to heat/cool cycles .....	64
Figure (4-17): Effect of exposure to 10 cycles on compressive strength of rubberized cement bricks.....	66
Figure (4-18): Effect of exposure to 20 cycles on compressive strength of rubberized cement bricks.....	66
Figure (4-19): Effect of exposure to 30 cycles on compressive strength of rubberized cement bricks.....	67
Figure (4-20): Effect of number of heat/cool cycles on Compressive strength of rubberized cement bricks exposed to 50°C .....	68
Figure (4-21): Effect of heat cycles numbers on Compressive strength of rubberized cement bricks exposed to 70°C.....	69
Figure (4-22): Effect of rubber size and content on the compressive strength of rubberized cement bricks exposed to 10 heat cycles at 50°C.....	70
Figure (4-23): Effect of rubber size and content on the compressive strength of rubberized cement bricks exposed to 10 heat cycles at 70°C .....	71
Figure (4-24): Effect of rubber size and content on the compressive strength of rubberized cement bricks exposed to 20 heat cycles at 50°C .....	72
Figure (4-25): Effect of rubber size and content on the compressive strength of rubberized cement bricks exposed to 20 heat cycles at 70°C .....	72
Figure (4-26): Effect of rubber size and content on the compressive strength of rubberized cement bricks exposed to 30 heat cycles at 50°C .....	73
Figure (4-27): Effect of rubber size and content on the compressive strength of rubberized cement bricks exposed to 30 heat cycles at 70°C.....	74

## **Abstract**

Major environmental problems are resulted worldwide from the disposal of worn out tires that are no longer suitable for use in vehicles. Hence, it is essential to reuse/recycle this waste for clean environment. This study aims at investigating the effect of using high percentages of waste tire rubber (up to 40%) as a partial replacement of natural aggregates in the production of solid cement bricks. Two sizes of rubber were used to replace natural coarse and fine aggregates in the production of the bricks. The characteristics of solid cement bricks including their physical and mechanical properties were determined and results were compared with the relevant standards to investigate the possibility of using this waste in the Egyptian market. In addition, the behavior of bricks after exposure to elevated temperatures and heat/cool cycles was also investigated. There is a great potential for the utilization of scrap tires in the production of solid cement bricks suitable for use as load bearing and non-load bearing units. This innovative application will open a new field for the recycling of considerable amounts of waste tire rubber for cleaner environment

# Chapter 1 : Introduction

## 1.1. General

Disposal of waste tire rubber has become a major environmental issue in all parts of the world. Every year millions of tires are discarded, thrown away or buried all over the world, representing a very serious threat to the ecology. It was estimated that almost 1000 million tires end their service life every year and out of that, more than 50% are discarded to landfills or garbage without any treatment. By the year 2030, there would be 5000 million tires to be discarded on a regular basis. Tire burning, which is the easiest and cheapest method of disposal, causes serious fire hazards. Temperature in that area rises and the poisonous smoke with uncontrolled emissions of potentially harmful compounds is very dangerous to humans, animals and plants. The residue powder left after burning pollutes the soil. Another easier solution is to leave discarded tires piling up in landfills which indirectly causing significant environmental and human health problems such as being breeding grounds for mosquitoes and rodent that are responsible for the spread of many diseases, in addition to increasing the risk of accidental fires at their storage locations. Hence, it is essential to reuse/recycle this waste for clean environment.

## 1.2. Thesis scope and Objectives

This study aims at investigating the effect of using high percentages of waste tire rubber (up to 40%) as a partial replacement of natural aggregates in the production of solid cement bricks. The characteristics of solid cement bricks including their physical and mechanical properties and their behavior after exposure to elevated temperatures and heat/cool cycles were determined and results were compared with the relevant standards to investigate the possibility of using this waste in the Egyptian market. The main objectives of this thesis can be outlined as follows:

- 1- The conversion of waste tire rubber from being a waste material to a value added product.
- 2- The Protection of the environment from pollution generated from the disposal of waste tire rubber.
- 3- Saving dump-sites used for disposing of waste tire rubber.
- 4- The conservation of natural aggregate by recycling of waste tire rubber as a partial replacement of natural aggregate.

## 1.3. Thesis outline

The thesis consists of 5 chapters summarized as follows:

**Chapter (1):** This chapter includes a general introduction, scope, objectives and outline of the thesis.

**Chapter (2):** This chapter contains a literature review, which provides an overview on the rubber and its production. In addition, waste tire rubber, its impact on the