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## Versatile Sandblasting Abrasive

### Copper Slag, a Versatile Sandblasting Abrasive



People who are familiar with Black Beauty products have probably heard of copper slag as an excellent replacement for coal slag as sandblasting media, but not everybody knows why copper slag is considered a superior material for all purpose cleaning and the repair of both metal and concrete surface. In addition, only a few know that this slag is so good that it is often used as a building material, concrete filler and base mix for the paving of roads.

Blocks of copper slag are usually seen in buildings close to metal refineries where smelting is done, but it can be a substitute building material in structures that require a surface hardening that could not be obtained even using Black Diamond sand. Manufactured in compliance with the international standard ISO 11126-3 that regulates the specifications of steel substrates used in paint application and blast cleaning abrasives, copper slag differs from coal slag abrasives because of its higher strength-to-weight ratio that makes it ideal for any concrete project.

Actually, copper slag is commonly used as fill material in many roadways nationwide, contributing to reducing the natural porosity of paved surfaces. This characteristic makes this

product a useful option to reduce structural freezing and moisture, being an excellent insulator, making any concrete or stone project resistant to fire, reducing the heat from spreading in case of flaming. If you are still unsure about the properties of copper slag, you can use black slag in minor projects, or areas where the properties of copper slag would not make any difference. However, you cannot discover how great copper slag is as a replacement, if you do not try it as your first option as sandblasting media or construction material.

Slag coal and black beauty sand could be left for minor rust and paint removal, and copper slag for those surfaces that need an effective blasting medium, especially to clean large surfaces. This byproduct results from copper smelting, which is a process that literally melts copper to separate it from the rock in which the metal is naturally embedded. Simple melting is not enough to get copper purity, thus the smelting process requires a series of steps that produces the waste to produce copper slag, which is a granular product with no metal content.

When slag is contaminated with metal, it is a hazardous abrasive and not recommended due to environmental and health concerns. Nonetheless, often times there are no risks using copper slag as a substitution for Black Beauty abrasive products. So now that you know a little more about using copper slag to replace black beauty slag, it is up to you to decide which is the better blasting media for your specific building project or applications, but usually the answer is copper slag hands down.

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