Aggregates play a vital role in our daily lives as the primary component in concrete and asphalt which are essential for constructing roads and bridges, homes, businesses, schools, hospitals and places of worship. Aggregates also are used in everyday products such as paper, glass, medicines, and fertilizer.

Here’s just a sampling of how we use aggregate in our everyday lives...

**Essential material for residential and commercial structures**
Aggregates are present from the concrete in the foundation all the way up to the shingles on the roof—and everywhere in between, like the wallboard, tile, glass and plaster.

**Main component in all facets of transportation**
- Roads and interstates
- Bridges and tunnels
- Railroad beds
- Airport runways, terminals and flight towers
- Subway tunnels
- Sidewalks
- Bike Paths and greenways

**Used to protect the environment**
- Erosion control
- Slope protection
- Dam construction
- Shoreline and navigation channels protection
- Limestone aggregates are used in some smokestacks to help clean the air by reducing sulfur dioxide emissions
- Water filtration
- Sewage control
- Wastewater control
- Drinking water purification

**Did you know?**
- Every Virginian will need 1.18 million pounds of stone, sand and gravel in their lifetime.
- Nearly all crushed stone, sand and gravel are used within 50 miles of where they were extracted, making aggregates a truly local business.
- Aggregates make up 94% of asphalt pavement and 80% of concrete.
- Approximately 38,000 tons of aggregates are required to construct one mile of a four-lane interstate highway.
- About 400 tons of aggregates are required to construct the average modern home.
- Hoover Dam was built with 4.5 million cubic yards of aggregates.