

NSSGA INSTA-GUIDE

The National Stone, Sand and Gravel Association designed the NSSGA INSTA-GUIDES to provide the industry salespeople with a simple, basic and instant overview of sales issues within the industry. The NSSGA INSTA-GUIDES will show you where to find detailed and expanded background information highlighting a particular selling topic.

Topic #1 Selling Crushed Aggregate Bases

This INSTA-GUIDE will:

1. Define crushed aggregate base.
2. Identify competing systems.
3. Highlight crushed aggregate base features, advantages and benefits.
4. Provide more detailed crushed aggregate base references.

1. **What is crushed aggregate base?**

A crushed aggregate base is a carefully graded and controlled aggregate material composed entirely of the products of one or more crushers. Its gradation is consistent. It may be dense graded, well graded, open graded or gap graded. Generally, the aggregate base includes all components above the compacted sub-grade. For best performance, the base should consist of 100% crushed cubical particles with a maximum particle size of 1 ½" and compacted to 100% AASHTO T-180 density.

Permeable aggregate bases (PAB) allow moisture to rapidly drain through the structure. Properly designed, the layers will drain within approximately two hours after precipitation concludes. For more details, see section 4.

2. **The Competing Systems**

The crushed aggregate base is not in a competitive-free environment, however. Common competitive systems include combinations of the following products:

- A. Geotextiles—both an ally and a competitor
- B. Soil Cement
- C. Lime Stabilized Soil
- D. Rubblized PCC Pavement
- E. Crack and Seat PCC Pavement
- F. Recycled or Virgin Asphalt as Base
- G. Construction and Demolition Waste as Base

3. **The crushed aggregate base is clearly superior because of its unique features, advantages and benefits, for instance:**

Feature	Advantage	Benefit
Angularity	Improved compaction	Increased stability
Homogeneity	Improved workability	Maintains consistency
Non-plasticity	Improved drainage	Performs well in wet conditions
Ease of placement	Reduced labor/equipment requirement	Keeps compaction costs low
Size variation	Improved compaction/density	Gradation can be tailored to needs
Drainability	Multiple subgrade applications	Different sizes available to meet specific drainage requirements
Adaptability	Multiple applications-permanent or temporary	Provides a temporary surface for stage construction
Thicker base	Greater load capacity	Reasonable costs
Superior service record	Well known for effective and lasting performance	Satisfied owners, specifiers and end users
Low cost	Effective means of building high quality roads	Much more paving for the dollar

4. **Crushed Aggregate Base References**

- A. NSSGA's **The Aggregate Handbook**
- B. NSSGA's **Aggregate Library**, including **Stone Base Construction Handbook**, **Design Guide for Road and Streets**, **Design Guide for Parking Areas**
- C. NSSGA's **The Aggregate Family**