

What is BREEAM?

BREEAM (the Building Research Establishment Environmental Assessment Methodology) was developed in 1996/7 as a tool to assess the impact of construction development on the environment.

The BREEAM Green Guide to Specification.

This is described on the **BRE** website as follows; *The first edition of the Green Guide series in 1996 was intended as a simple green guide to the environmental impacts of building materials which was easy-to-use and soundly based on numerical data.*

The **Green Guide** has been developed over the years and now contains;

Building Types; Commercial Buildings (e.g. Offices); Education; Healthcare; Retail; Domestic; Industrial. All of the 'Building Types' contain a number of;

Categories including the Landscape Category, which In turn contains the following;

Elements; Surfacing for Heavily Trafficked Areas, Surfacing for Lightly Trafficked Areas, Surfacing Pedestrian Trafficked Areas. Elements and their variations are assigned an 'Element Number' with a 'Rating' which the designer can use to determine the potential environmental impact of the materials and systems.

Visit bre.co.uk/greenguide/ for more detail on the structure of the 'Green Guide to Specification'.

SteinTec Products and the BREEAM Green Guide to Specification

In pavement construction, SteinTec bedding, jointing and bonding mortars are employed in combination with modular paving units typically of natural stone or pre-cast concrete. For this reason there is no 'Green Guide Element Number or Summary Rating' assigned by The Green Guide to individual bedding and jointing products. Instead, the Element Numbers and Ratings are assigned to various 'combinations' of materials that constitute the different type of pavement construction. This is illustrated below.

Example showing **Green Guide Element Numbers and Summary Ratings for;**

Building Type – Commercial **Category** – Landscape **Element Type** – Surfacing for Heavily Trafficked Areas

	Element Number	Rating	Relevant Steintec Product
Cement mortar wet laid imported Chinese granite setts (100mm) over prepared recycled sub-base	822120039	C	<i>(Our technical team can advise of which of our products are appropriate for each Element Number.)</i>
Cement mortar wet laid imported Chinese granite setts (100mm) over prepared sub-base	822120008	E	
Cement mortar wet laid imported Indian sandstone riven setts (100mm) over prepared recycled sub-base	822120055	D	
Cement mortar wet laid imported Indian sandstone riven setts (100mm) over prepared sub-base	822120054	E	
Cement mortar wet laid reclaimed stone setts (100mm) over prepared recycled sub-base	822120040	B	
Cement mortar wet laid reclaimed stone setts (100mm) over prepared sub-base	822120013	C	
Cement mortar wet laid UK sandstone setts (100mm) over prepared recycled sub-base	822120042	C	
Cement mortar wet laid UK sandstone setts (100mm) over prepared sub-base	822120019	D	
Notes; A = the best/least environmental impact. Element Numbers and ratings attributed to each of the Landscape Element types is the same for each of the different Building Types.			

Full details for; 'Surfacing for Heavily Trafficked Areas', 'Surfacing for Lightly Trafficked Areas' and 'Surfacing for Pedestrian Trafficked Areas' can be found on the BRE website at bre.co.uk/greenguide/ggelement.jsp/buildingtype

'Ratings' stated in the Green Guide for the various forms of pavement construction are generally 'a worst case' rating. However there is 30-50% less binder in SteinTec products than in equivalent conventional products. This is because the 'Structure First' technology which lies at the heart of all SteinTec products ensures outstanding structural performance whilst minimising environmental impact. We at SteinTec would never suggest specifiers amend published Green Guide ratings, but it is good to know that by using our products it's possible to achieve a responsible balance between product performance and environmental impact.

For more details on SteinTec's 'structure first' 'low-energy' approach see our **Green Credentials** page:

www.steintec.co.uk/technical/green-credentials-breem/