

OHIO PRECAST CONCRETE ASSOCIATION

The Precast Publication

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Registration Opens for The Precast Show 2023 at the Greater Columbus Convention Center

Registration for The Precast Show 2023 is now open. The Precast Show is Feb. 23-25 at the Greater Columbus Convention Center in Columbus, Ohio, and marks the largest precast-specific trade show in North America, bringing together the industry's most important suppliers and foremost equipment specialists under one roof.

Reserve your spot now at ThePrecastShow.org.

With more than 120,000 square feet of show floor space and nearly 5,000 participants expected to be on hand, The Precast Show brings together industry leaders, innovators, educators and new technologies to create connections, drive business growth and showcase the industry.

"The Precast Show is the highlight of the year for our industry," NPCA President FRED GRUBBE said. "It is an event that showcases the industry as a whole but also prides itself as a place where active conversations lead to millions of dollars' worth of business."

The Precast Show is hosted by the National Precast Concrete Association (NPCA) alongside participating associations the Precast/Prestressed Institute (PCI) and the Interlocking Concrete Pavement Institute/National Concrete Masonry Association (ICPI- NCMA). Learn more about The Precast Show at the event website: ThePrecastShow.org.

ABOUT NPCA: Based in Carmel, Ind., NPCA has represented manufacturers of industrial plant-produced precast concrete products and the suppliers of products and services for the industry since 1965, providing members with the programs and information required to operate a successful precast plant. NPCA operates the industry's largest and most comprehensive plant certification program, which is accredited by the ANSI National Accreditation Board (ANAB).



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Save the Date!

2023 Annual Conference and Trade Show
May 4-5, 2023
Columbus Airport Marriott
Columbus, OH

2023 Fall Training Event
November 17, 2023
ODOT District 4 Building
Akron, OH

We can't wait to see you at the 2023 Events!

NPCA Foundation

Scholarship Deadline—March 10, 2023

For more than two decades, the National Precast Concrete Association Foundation has provided educational scholarships to undergraduate and graduate students enrolled in civil engineering, architectural, and construction-related curricula.

The Foundation's mission is to support the growth and enhance development of the precast concrete industry by providing opportunities using educational initiatives and incentives.

Further details and application forms can be accessed at <https://precast.org/foundation/scholarships/>

Attention OPCA Members!

**Be sure to update the
OPCA mailing address to
6870 Licking Valley Road,
Frazeyburg, OH 43822!**

The Undisputable Value of ASTM Membership...

The American Society of Testing and Materials (ASTM) International is a globally-recognized leader in the development and delivery of consensus standards. Over 12,000 ASTM standards are used all over the world to improve product quality, enhance health and safety, strengthen market access and trade, and build consumer confidence

"ASTM membership and committee participation provides the opportunity to shape industry standards for precast products. It is an excellent way to learn new technology, developing trends and be on the front end of regulator concerns and initiatives that impact my business. I value the connections and friendships made through ASTM participation." – *John Lendrum, Norwalk Concrete Industries*

– covering everything from precast concrete structures to bike helmets to marijuana.

You've certainly heard of ASTM before, probably own more standards than you can keep track of, and have peers who are members. But have you ever

considered joining ASTM?

Why join?

Influence industry standards – When you join ASTM, you have direct influence over standards that you, your peers, and your competitors use every day. You can help update existing standards and even write new standards.

Network with your peers and customers – ASTM members in the precast industry include precast producers, suppliers, DOT and municipality representatives, professors, engineers, and architects, among others. Catch up with old friends, meet new faces in the industry, and connect with key individuals in a strategic setting.

Stay on top of trends – ASTM members are industry leaders. Find out about new technologies, materials, tests, and designs that could impact your operations and help you stay ahead of potential changes before they go into effect.

Build your leadership skills – Hone your leadership, communication, collaboration, and problem-solving skills. You can participate as a general member of a committee, or you can have a specific role like a task group leader, subcommittee chairman, or committee chairman, just to name a few.

Advance your career – Gain a unique perspective on the industry, network, and advance your industry knowledge in ways that will serve you for years to come.

Not sure if you qualify? You do. Anyone can join ASTM. You don't need an engineering degree, an executive title, or years of experience – just an interest in the industry and a willingness to learn.

Not sure how it works? What better way to learn than by attending a meeting either in person or virtually? Or attend a free online information session offered through ASTM. Or just ask one of your peers who is already involved.

Not sure it's worth it? ASTM membership is only \$75 per year and includes a free volume of standards each year you renew.

Not sure you can attend? The precast-specific ASTM committees have one or two in person meetings each year, and most can be attended virtually.

Not sure which committee to join? Consider Committee C27 on Precast Concrete Products, which oversees standards for traffic barrier, retaining wall blocks, utility structures, and septic tanks, or Committee C13 on Concrete Pipe, which oversees standards for pipe, box culverts, and manholes.

Ready to join?

Visit www.astm.org to join today, or feel free to contact Kayla Hanson, P.E. at (800) 332-7325 if you have more questions.

"ASTM offers the opportunity to be a part of the development of standards and be on the leading edge. It's always better to be proactive than reactive to standards. We also interact with designers and owners as well as our peers in the precast concrete industry. Numerous friendships have been developed through membership and the benefits of membership outweigh the small cost to join and/or time required to participate in committees." – *Chuck Babbert, E.C. Babbert, Inc.*



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Why Join OPCA?

As we look forward to another year of growth for our industry, we invite you to join the Ohio Precast Concrete Association (OPCA). The annual dues go a long way to support activities and communication tools tailored to your needs and interests as a business owner and producer of precast products. Here are the highlights:

- Our quarterly eNewsletter is sent via email and postal mail to all members. The eNewsletter can also be found (along with all past editions) on our OPCA website at www.ohioprecast.org.
- Mail Chimp's OPCA group email server provides you with SPAM-compliant breaking news and event information, including the quarterly e-newsletter.
- Our continuously maintained OPCA website features your company listing, with live links to your website and/or email address, and provides you access to safety training talks and tools, upcoming training events, the Annual Conference, and links to OSHA, ODOT, and ODH rules and information affecting your workplace.
- OPCA Trainings are a great way to find out up to date information that pertains to your company and the industry. The Ohio Precast Concrete Association is looking to hold two trainings in 2023 and more information will be available soon. We are looking at the trainings taking place in May and November 2023!
- Did you know that the National Precast Show is taking place in Ohio in February 23-25 2023? OPCA is going to have a tradeshow booth at the event and will also be having a hospitality room. This is a great opportunity to meet others in the industry and we hope to see you there! If you are interested in manning the tradeshow booth for a couple of hours, please let the OPCA office know!

Please let us know if you have any questions. We wish you good health and success this year, and we hope to see you in 2023!



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We Need Your Help....

The National Precast Concrete Association show is coming to Columbus in February and OPCA needs your help! OPCA will have a booth at the event and we would love to have members help out with it. Listed to the right you will see the options that are available for you to sign-up!

We are asking for you to sit at the OPCA booth for one hour at a time. It is a great way to meet and network with others!

Contact the OPCA Office today to sign up for a time slot!

The Precast Show provides a platform for all segments of the manufactured concrete industry – precast, prestressed, masonry and hardscape – to showcase the latest technologies, products and solutions. Convening in Columbus, Ohio, in 2022, the 120,000-square-foot event is expected to bring the manufactured concrete community together in record-breaking numbers, connecting more than 350 exhibiting companies with more than 4,000 industry professionals from around the globe.

NPCA Show Tradeshow Sign-Up Sheet		
Thursday, February 23, 2023		
	Person #1	Person #2
2:00 PM		
3:00 PM		
4:00 PM		
5:00 PM		
6:00 PM		
Friday, February 24, 2023		
	Person #1	Person #2
11:00 AM		
12:00 PM		
1:00 PM		
2:00 PM		
3:00 PM		
4:00 PM		
Saturday, February 25, 2023		
	Person #1	Person #2
10:00 AM		
11:00 AM		
12:00 PM		

OPCA Purpose....

The Ohio Precast Concrete Association (OPCA) is a group of producer members and associated industries cooperating together as an association. The intent is to bring pertinent issues and information that impact the Precast Concrete Industry to the attention of government agencies which participate in the origination of these issues.

The OPCA is interested in assisting these agencies by providing expert advice and counsel in the development of regulations involving the industry and the general public.

The OPCA producer and associate members' products and services range from the construction of buildings and highways to the manufacture of precast concrete products for utilities, rainwater runoff management, and treatment of commercial and residential waste water. The OPCA member products and services affect the lives of nearly every Ohioan on a daily basis.

Some specific areas of interest pursued by the OPCA are as follows:

- Monitoring sewage guidelines relating to the specific construction and operation of home waste water treatment products (septic tanks, aerators, etc.) by the Ohio Department of Health and the Ohio EPA.
- The introduction of programs and policies relating to the testing of materials and products being used on Ohio Department of Transportation projects.
- The development of quality control procedures and inspections services training by the Ohio Department of Transportation.

The Ohio Precast Concrete Association will be expanding its scope of interest as membership roles grow and diversify. Three committees are accepting new participants: Education Task Group, Regulatory & Professional, and Membership Growth, Retention & Engagement. Interested members should contact an OPCA Board Member or send an email message to info@ohioprecast.org



THE
**PRECAST
SHOW**

2 0 2 3

SAVE THE DATE

The Precast Show 2023

Feb. 23 - 25 in Columbus, Ohio

**Stop by OPCA's Booth -#1156
for more information on the association**

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Making Concrete Refrigerator Magnets...

Written By: Luke Snell

Members of the Legacy Village, a senior retirement village in Ohio, got creative this year and made concrete refrigerator magnets. Why? Who wouldn't want a unique gift that no one in our family has or has even thought that they needed? Don't we all need more refrigerator magnets to hang those art projects from our kids? And who can resist a special magnet made with love and concrete by their aunt, uncle, parents, or grandparents?

Unlike most projects at the retirement village, working with concrete takes several sessions with delays between each activity. First, you need to make the samples and wait at least one day before removing them from the forms. Then, in about one week, the concrete has cured and dried so it can be painted, and the magnet applied.

When planning this project, I contacted Ohio Concrete and the Ohio Precast Concrete Association for their support. They wholeheartedly agreed to be sponsors for the materials needed for the project plus provide pizza to make this an event to remember.

Batching the Concrete

To do this project, you need the following materials:

- Cement or plaster of Paris, 5 pounds—available at a local batch plant or hardware store
- Perlite, 8-quart bag—garden or hardware store
- Candy molds (one form for every 2 people) — molds with hearts, stars, and flowers work best. I don't recommend cactus, pineapple, or oddly shaped forms with thin sections, since it is difficult to remove these sample from the mold without damage. Molds are available online or at craft stores.
- Plastic spoons, plastic bowls, craft sticks (popsicle sticks)—discount stores or craft stores
- 1/2- to 1-inch disc magnets with adhesive backing—online or at craft stores; I used X-BET magnetic circles (0.8-inch diameter)
- Coarse sandpaper
- Fingernail polish, several bottles with a variety of colors
- 1/8-cup (2-Tablespoon) measuring spoon
- Water
- Coloring agent (optional)—available at a hardware or building supply store
- Cans of compressed air—craft or computer store

During the first session, we made the concrete using perlite, portland cement, and water. Most in our group had never made concrete before so we provided a specific mixture design of 1 part cement (1/8 cup) to 2 parts perlite (1/4 cup). All material was measured by volume since this is the easiest way to get accurate quantities with equipment that was easy to use. Water was added so that the final concrete mixture resembled a brownie mixture. I used a cooking analogy since most of our group had

made cookies and were used to following a recipe. They were making about a 1/2 pound of concrete at a time, so any deviation from the recipe could have been disastrous. This is a lesson most of us that work with concrete have learned the hard way. It was a challenge to make sure the concrete mixture was made with a limited amount of water to get the "brownie mix" consistency.

Making the Magnets

Once the concrete was batched, the next step was to place it into the molds. We used plastic spoons to place the concrete and a craft stick and the back of the spoon to consolidate the mixture. Since the samples were very small, an air pocket (entrapped air) would ruin the sample, so we were careful to consolidate well. They then finished the concrete using the craft stick (their finishing tool). The samples were then moved to a safe area where they were undisturbed until the next session.

The waste concrete, mixing bowl, spoon, and craft sticks were put into the solid waste trash. I cautioned them not to put any waste in the sink as this could clog the plumbing. The group was instructed to wash immediately so that no cement or concrete residue remained on their clothing or hands.

Those in our group making concrete hearts added a red color to the mixture and used Plaster of Paris as the cement. (Plaster of Paris is pure gypsum and is likely one of mankind's first cements). The perlite will not take the color, so while the Plaster of Paris paste was red, the perlite remained a brilliant white. When they sand the heart afterwards, they got a magnet with a speckled look that many people liked.

The day after the concrete was cast, the magnets were removed from the forms and stored where they would both cure and dry out. We kept the samples at room temperature and in a dry environment. The concrete had enough excess moisture so that the hydration continued for at least a week. We planned to paint the concrete, so the concrete also needed to dry. This concrete is not intended for structural use, so its strength is not important. The strength of this concrete is likely about 100 psi. When dried, our concrete samples were extremely light and would actually float in water.

There were three steps to finishing the concrete refrigerator magnets. First, the concrete surface the magnet was to be attached to was sanded to make it relatively smooth. Once the surface was sanded, we use compressed air to blow the dust from the samples. This was done outdoors wearing a face mask.

The final step was to paint the samples. Fingernail polish is ideal since each bottle has its own brush and it is available in a variety of colors, is easy to apply, and dries in minutes. We encouraged our group to be creative; some of the more craft-oriented members used acrylic paint with brushes.

The final step after the fingernail polish or paint dried was to attach the magnet to the sanded surface. Since the magnets came with an adhesive surface, we simply centered the magnet to the sample and applied a little pressure with our fingers until the adhesive was firmly attached.

The concrete refrigerator magnets were now complete and ready to wow our family

members.

Lessons Learned

What did our group learn from this project? Was it just a craft activity? No, these people now look at concrete in a whole new light and have a different opinion of the second-most-used material in the world. Here is what I observed that they learned in the class and activity:

1. Cement is the powder or glue that holds concrete together. We do not have a cement sidewalk but a concrete sidewalk (regardless of what Sesame Street says). They loved the saying "cement is to concrete as flour is to fruitcake."
2. There are concrete trucks and cement trucks. The big trucks they see with the rotating drum are concrete mixer trucks that deliver concrete to a jobsite ready to be used to build our structures and roads. A cement truck is a tanker and looks sort of like the trucks that deliver gasoline. The cement trucks deliver the cement to companies that use it to make concrete—batch plants and precast concrete plants.
3. Concrete is custom made to meet the needs of how it is to be used. We can alter the mix design so that the concrete has the exact properties we need. In most cases we want concrete to be strong and durable so we can use it in buildings and roads. In other applications, we want it to stabilize the rocks on a hillside or provide an attractive sound barrier on our roadways. In the case of the magnets, we wanted a concrete that was extremely light and attractive—we weren't concerned with strength.
4. Concrete can be made beautiful. Although many people have seen architectural, colored and exposed aggregate concrete, they may not have paid attention to it until now. Prior to this activity, most of those in our group had the impression that concrete is just a grey functional material. They now see concrete differently. It can be attractive as well as functional.
5. Working with concrete can be fun. Most of our group had never said that before! For those of us that work in the concrete industry, we may not often say that working with concrete is fun, but maybe we need fresh eyes to remind us just how great our industry is and that it is fun to be creative with concrete.

I want to thank Ohio Concrete, the Ohio Precast Concrete Association, Phillips Companies, and Quikrete for supporting this activity. They supplied all the materials to make this project a reality plus the pizza was an extra bonus.



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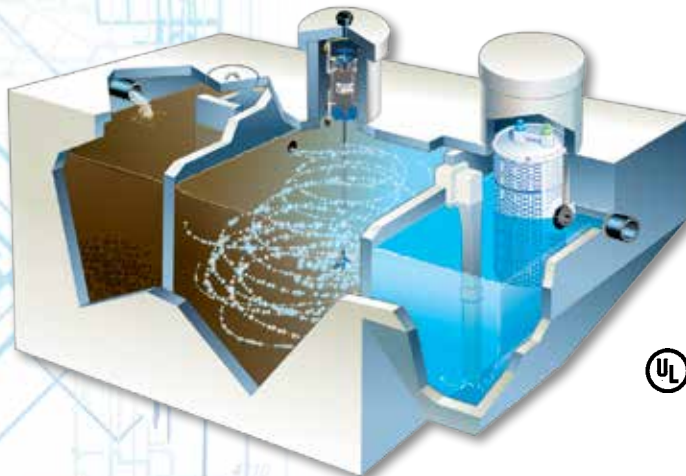
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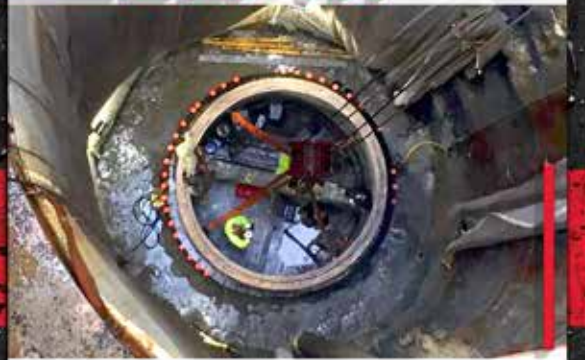
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OPCA Membership Form

**OHIO PRECAST CONCRETE ASSOCIATION
2023 MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION**

COMPANY _____

MAIN CONTACT* _____

ADDITIONAL CONTACT (optional, non-voting) _____

ADDRESS _____

CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP _____

PHONE _____ CELL PHONE _____

WEBSITE _____ EMAIL _____

Please list the products/services you provide. Your firm will also be listed on the member page of the OPCA website, www.ohioprecast.org and eNewsletter for marketing purposes.

**The contact listed on this form will hold the authorized vote for this member. Voting rules, including the issuance of a proxy, are covered in the By-laws of the OPCA.*

Membership Type	Method of Payment	Amount Due
2023 Producer Membership	Check	\$500.00
2023 Producer Membership	Credit Card Payment Online at http://www.ohioprecast.org/members.html	\$520.00
2023 Affiliate Membership	Check	\$300.00
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