

Setting & Hardening of Cement

The term 'Setting' is used to describe the stiffening of the cement paste. Setting of cement refers to changes of cement paste from a fluid to rigid state. The term 'Hardening' refers to the gain of strength of a set cement paste, although during setting the cement paste acquires some strength.

Reactions involved in setting and hardening of cement:- When cement is mixed with water, the paste becomes rigid within a short time which is known as initial setting. This is due to the hydration of tricalcium aluminates and gel formation of tetra calcium alumina ferrite.

