

A photograph of a construction site. In the foreground, a worker wearing a white shirt, dark pants, and a white hat stands on a concrete base, leaning against a metal railing. Behind him, a wall is under construction, made of light-colored, rectangular bricks. Scaffolding is visible around the wall. In the background, another worker in blue overalls is on a higher level of the structure, possibly the roof, working with wooden beams. The sky is clear and blue.

**RoadPacker Group**

**Low Cost Housing Using  
Stabilised Earth Bricks**

**Product Information  
& Technical Manuals**



**RoadPacker**  
GROUP

If you're interested in our range of chemical soil stabilisation products please get in touch.

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# Low Cost Housing Using Stabilised Earth Bricks

## Product Information & Technical Manuals

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# The Company

## **RoadPacker Group's Low Cost Housing Using Stabilised Earth Bricks**

Our business unit has been providing products and services to the housing industry for decades including special community redevelopment projects, incorporating environmental management with effective social and community sustainable modelling.

Other areas of activity are environmental soil reclamation consulting, with environmental, social and community planning, products and field services to governments, institutions, aboriginal groups, and the petroleum, forestry and mining industries. We maintain a philosophy that combines low cost housing and infrastructure together with modern chemical stabilisation, thereby further supporting community sustainability within low cost community redevelopment projects.

## **Project Management**

RoadPacker Group has recognised a unique project management market niche within international housing and community development projects associated with an increasing demand for low cost housing. The need is greatest for community redevelopment projects as a result of environmental disasters or as a component of economic reform programmes. The expertise of our company personnel in providing project planning and management, allows us to provide complete project management services for not only housing construction,

but also total infrastructure design and construction.

## **Products and Technology**

RoadPacker Group brings both the construction expertise and practical chemical and mechanical products to support low cost redevelopment projects. Our products include ionic soil binding chemicals, the RoadPacker Clay Brick Stabiliser and the technology of the Stabilised Earth Brick Machine (SEB). Both components of the technology are very effective in providing low cost housing.

We have an ongoing product and technology assessment program to identify, license and market Canadian and international products and technologies for low cost community redevelopment projects.

## **Sustainable Communities**

RoadPacker Group have developed a management and field team of knowledgeable personnel who understand that the total success of a community redevelopment project, depends on the ability of the community to be sustainable. That successful planning involves the people who will live and work within the community. As a result of this understanding to design for successful sustainability, we have developed a social and community affairs assessment and auditing model, which is utilised as both a planning and monitoring component for community redevelopment projects.

### **Integrated Team Approach**

We have developed a planning process that understands the benefits of a concept referred to as social engineering. Social, environmental and community affairs experts, form a strong component of the planning and master plan development team. Utilising assessment models, the planning team integrates various 25 year regional land use scenarios into the master plan. This process allows for a higher level of confidence in the design of a master plan.

### **Capital Budget Forecasting**

RoadPacker Group provides the expertise and database systems for accurate capital budget forecasting. To support these budget programs we have personnel experienced with international product and service contract negotiations.

### **Pride of Ownership**

We recognise the benefits, both in lowering costs and successful community development, of utilising future home owners and community members in constructing their own homes and communities. A viable asset in providing low cost community redevelopment housing, is the utilisation of this labour force.

### **Viability of Micro-Enterprises**

The success of community redevelopment is the capability of the planning team to integrate small businesses or micro-enterprises into the master plan. To provide a sustainable community both business and work needs must be considered. This is especially true in agricultural areas where small plots of



land are the key to household economic survival.

### **Corporate Management Team**

RoadPacker Group obviously does not maintain offices around the world. We have however, through many years of experience and operations throughout the world, built up a vast network of highly experienced individuals of uncommon talent and achievement, working together smoothly and quietly in well disciplined teams.

This allows us to work quickly and efficiently on behalf of a client, to bring about a satisfactory and profitable conclusion to any venture they may decide to pursue.

Our key management team consists of senior personnel who represent an integrated team with capabilities in environmental planning, design and engineering. The variability within their professional backgrounds and also their collective expertise, provides a strong team for community redevelopment projects. The talents of the experts available to discharge a client's requirements are evidenced in their CVs that detail their recent and past engagements.



### **International Partnerships and Financing**

Our management team's capabilities include the ability to find and develop international partnerships. This management team is currently concentrating on partnerships in the Philippines, China, India, Venezuela, Mexico, Nigeria and other countries where their knowledge of these governments, construction industries and redevelopment programmes, provide the formulae for successful business ventures.

The type of financing for redevelopment projects is the key to the successful completion of a redevelopment project. Our management team provides the expertise to utilise appropriate government financial assistance and, acquire contracts funded by international aid and banking institutions.

### **Environment, Health and Safety Training Programs**

We integrate environmental, health and safety programmes into all community redevelopment projects. All supervisors, contractors and personnel are provided with environmental, health and safety training programmes prior to commencement of any construction work.

## Technology

The primary purpose of the RoadPacker Group's low cost housing technology is to produce affordable housing for the poor of any country where there is a distinct lack of conventional housing. Its biggest advantage is that it is immediate.

The benefits of this system of home building is that a disaster rescue unit does not need many raw materials to immediately move into a declared disaster area and begin to provide the rudimentary requirements for a community to return to a position of normalcy.

Not only can this procedure be used in creating new communities of a permanent nature, it can be used in the event of a disaster being declared due to typhoons, flooding, earthquakes and any other disaster that renders people homeless.

The benefits of this system of home building is that a disaster rescue unit does not need many raw materials to immediately move into a declared disaster area and begin to provide the rudimentary requirements for a community to return to a position of normalcy.

By the simple movement of several mobile SEB making machines into a disaster area, the local government



people can immediately begin to produce homes, schools and even hospitals to accommodate the homeless population. All that is required, is a SEB machine, RoadPacker Clay Brick Stabiliser product and the local 'in situ' soil from the side of the road or near-by fields.

If there is already a machine in place and an adequate supply of RoadPacker Clay Brick Stabiliser, then reconstruction of the country's housing infrastructure can begin immediately.

Should the equipment not be in place, then the SEB machine and the RoadPacker Clay Brick Stabiliser can be brought into the area as emergency relief equipment. Another option is to move in the finished material from an off-site location.



## Stabilised Earth Brick (SEB) Machine Specifications

The SEB machine is easily transported onto a construction site and can immediately produce high quality, interlocking blocks made from the 'in situ' (local) soil. By using the unique interlocking features, SEBs allow "dry construction", i.e. no mortar is required to hold the blocks together. Made from soil treated with RoadPacker Clay Brick Stabiliser products, the SEBs can be used almost immediately after production.

The fast, reliable and easy to handle, SEB machine, will allow for low cost construction of high quality houses with unskilled labour.

The construction of a 50 square metre house requiring 5,000 SEBs, can be achieved in two or three (2 or 3) days and will be of the highest standard. The home will also be heat resistant, sound proof and completely stable.

The following details serve to give you an idea as to the effectiveness and versatility of such a machine.

**Capacity:** The SEB can manufacture 200 blocks per hour. If the length of the working day is 10 hours, a total of 2,000 RoadPacker SEBs can be made each day.

**Engine:** Diesel air-cooled 10 kW hand-start, or electrically powered 13 kW.

**Size:** 1,300 cm ( length) x 1,200 cm ( width ) x 1,300 cm ( height)

**Weight:** 850 kg (1,000 kgs with trailer)

**Hydraulic oil:** S A E 40

**Qty/Blocks m<sup>3</sup>:** 100 to 110 blocks

**Qty/Blocks/ RP Clay Bricks Stabiliser:** 110 blocks

**Qty/Blocks/Per Bag of Cement:** 65 - 70 blocks

**Fuel consumption:** +/- 1 litre per hour

**Option:** Mobile, integrated roadworthy trailer

## FAQ

### **Can I use any soil with RoadPacker Group Stabilised Earth Brick Machines ?**

Almost! We use a prescribed dosage of RoadPacker Clay Brick Stabiliser to bind the soil. To achieve the compaction necessary for the strength to produce a strong brick, we need a clay soil of 10%>. Pure sand cannot be used as we must compact the mixture. If the 'in situ' soil is too sandy, then some clayey soil will definitely have to be mixed in with the existing 'in situ' soil. A compaction test will give you a clear idea of the proper mix to work with.

### **Can I mix water with the soil?**

Our Stabilised Earth Bricks use what is called a "dry mix" which in fact uses a minimum of (10 to 15 %) water. Most often the soil is wet enough to be used as is. If need be, a small amount of water can be added. The mixture must not be over wet, otherwise compaction will not be achieved

### **Do I need a mixer ?**

For small projects, mixers are not used at all (but can be if so desired). We emphasise the labour intensive possibilities of Stabilised Earth Bricks. If the project needs a high output of bricks, we recommend the use of a pan mixer (supplied by RoadPacker Group) to improve productivity.

### **Do I have to prepare the soil before mixing in the RoadPacker Clay Brick Stabiliser?**

Once again, for small projects, there is no need for mechanisation of the soil preparation. A good grid trough (into which the soil is shovelled) will eliminate stones and other big components and



will produce very good results. If a higher output is required, we recommend the use of a crusher that will reduce the lumps and stones and give a very high consistent quality of the final product.

### **Can we be sure that these walls are not going to fall down?**

This is the most commonly asked question and where people who have not yet seen a RoadPacker Group Stabilised Earth Brick building have the most concern. The answer is simple. Our Stabilised Earth Bricks have a patented shape that gives them the most solid interlocking feature ever. The walls are made from bricks that are interlocked with each other. It is totally impossible to remove one brick from a wall unless a pick is used to break through it. There is no more solid wall available on the market today.

### **If there is soil movement, will the wall crack and fall down?**

Here again is the very basis of the strength of the Stabilised Earth Brick concept, each and every brick in the building is





interlocked to the others, but is not bonded to them as with cement mortared bricks. With traditional mortar, once there is a soil movement, the bricks come under such strong tension that the bond eventually cracks and the wall starts a cracking process that never ends and is most difficult to correct. With our Stabilised Earth Bricks, each brick undergoes a minimal amount of movement and the whole wall will adjust progressively without damage or cracking.

**How can you avoid the top bricks from being removed on a roofless structure?**

If you build a wall with no top structure, then it is recommended to seal the two top layers of bricks with mortar or, better still, put a firmly fixed topping on the wall (such as a pre-cast shaped beam, or wood trusses).

**For a perimeter wall, how can you avoid reinforced columns?**

RoadPacker Group Stabilised Earth Bricks have no magic formula. Walls of long length have to be supported (as with any other

construction method). In this case, we can very simply make a supporting column with Stabilised Earth Bricks only. You still won't have to buy and transport reinforcing bars and mix concrete.

**How can you fit the trusses for the roofs?**

If simplicity and low cost is required, we can do it very easily indeed. Once the building has reached a height where there is only 3 to 4 rows of bricks to be added, then fit a flexible strapping steel and keep laying the bricks. Once the roof trusses have to be fitted, link the strapping steel with the trusses to hold them all together.

**How do you build the corner walls?**

Stabilised Earth Bricks have a top shoulder that has to be manually removed (very simply with the trowel) up to a length to allow the bricks to be cross fitted together. Alternatively, corner moulds are used.

## RoadPacker Clay Brick Stabiliser

Made of 'in situ' soil plus RoadPacker CBS and compressed at over 6000 lbs PSI, the block size is consistently +/- 200 mm (length) x 200 mm (width) x 100mm (height) weight +/- 12kg and the MPA is > 8 mpa.

When using the RoadPacker Group SEB technology, the following procedures must be adhered to:

- The soil used must contain 15% of clay or more (pure sand will not work nor will lahar). If inferior soil/clay/lahar is to be used, then a clayee material will have to be imported and properly mixed with the 'in situ' material.
- Mix the soil with 0.2 of a litre of RoadPacker Clay Brick Stabiliser per Cubic Metre (m<sup>3</sup>) of material/soil. For foundations, 0 .3 of a litre per Cubic Metre ( m<sup>3</sup>) of material/soil is recommended.
- Adjust the hydraulic pressure from the SEB machine to the type of soil and moisture used.

Then, the treated material is placed into the machine and compaction begins.

The lever that activates compaction is then operated and the process begins. The technology involved in this process is of the simplest type requiring no highly specialised labour to operate the equipment.



The application for this type of technology is endless. Not only is it suitable for the emergency disaster low cost housing projects, it can also be used to construct quality type homes for the middle to upper cost bracket. The unique isothermic features of the RoadPacker Clay Brick Stabilised home allows for whole villages and sub-divisions to be constructed.

RoadPacker SEBs are firmly interlocked on the top, bottom and sides. A wall built with RoadPacker SEBs is extremely strong and highly isothermic. Each block is perfectly extruded and all blocks are of the highest quality. There is no available technology that will allow you to build as fast, as with RoadPacker SEBs at such a competitive price.



### **Reasons to Use Our Technology**

RoadPacker SEBs allow you to use the most abundant raw material on earth - soil. The SEB uses only 0.2 litres of RoadPacker Clay Brick Stabiliser per m<sup>3</sup> to be mixed with the soil to stabilise it. The blocks being strong and highly compacted, are of the highest resistance (>8mpa) and do not require the use of any reinforcing bars to build a completely strong durable dwelling of up to 2 floors.

RoadPacker SEBs can be produced on the construction site, which negates the need for transporting the blocks and thereby reduces the risk of damaging the already "paid for" blocks. This technology utilises unskilled labour to manufacture the blocks, therefore employment is provided for the indigenous population and costs are kept to a minimum.

These houses require a minimum of skilled labour to build. A professional bricklayer supervising the job will be sufficient, all other workers can be unskilled from the surrounding area.

RoadPacker SEBs are of a quality so high and a finish so good, that most of the builders do not plaster or paint the external walls. Furthermore, the majority of the low cost housing, because of the high standard and finish, can be left with the internal walls not painted.

A RoadPacker SEB house is totally isothermic to the extent that neither the heat nor the cold will affect the comfort of the occupants. Should the occupant decide that they wish to install air conditioning, then their electricity bill will be to a minimal due to this.