

Comparative Study of Traditional Old and Recent Clay Bricks in the Southwest of Tunisia: Chemical, Mineralogical and Physical Properties

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Abstract : The history of brick manufacturing in south-west Tunisia dates back 1000 years. Most of the bricks are made at local workshops near to the clay supply site. This experimental study aims at studying and comparing the chemical, mineralogical and physical characterization of ancient and recent clay bricks in south-western Tunisia. This was done by collecting a large sample of clay brick specimens from four sites. There was much variability in the properties. The results revealed that there is a difference of up to 50% between old and new bricks; in chemical composition, mineralogy composition and porosity, which are much lower in recent clay bricks.

Keywords : clay bricks, chemical properties, mineralogical properties, physical properties

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