

## Impact of Carbonation on Lime-Treated High PI Clayey Soils

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**Abstract :** Lime stabilization is a sustainable and economically viable option to address strength deficiencies of subgrade soils. However, exposure of stabilized layers to environmental elements can lead to a reduction in post-stabilization strength gain expected in these layers. The current study investigates the impact of carbonation on the strength properties of lime-treated soils. Manufactured soils prepared using varying proportions of bentonite silica mixtures were used in the study. Lime-treated mixtures were exposed to different experimental conditions created by varying the concentrations of CO<sub>2</sub> in the testing chamber. The impact of CO<sub>2</sub> diffusion was identified based on changes in carbonate content and strength (UCS) properties. Changes in soil morphology were also investigated as part of the study. The carbonation rate was observed to vary polynomially (2nd order) with exposure time. The strength properties of the mixes were observed to decrease with exposure time. Correlations were also developed to predict the carbonation rate in stabilized layers when exposed to atmospheric conditions.

**Keywords :** carbonation, soil, stabilization, morphology

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