



Our Most Frequently Asked Questions

What is Hebel?

Hebel is an amazingly innovative building material made from autoclaved aerated concrete (AAC). AAC is a unique building material – a combination of sand, water, lime, cement and gypsum which are processed with a gas-forming aluminium paste, to create an aerated lightweight insulating mineral product. AAC delivers the benefits of traditional masonry such as strength, fire and pest resistance. However with its unique cellular structure it is much lighter, easier and quicker to install. It also provides superior thermal insulation while still delivering excellent acoustic properties.

Is Hebel environmentally friendly?

The Hebel production process is ecologically responsible with very little waste produced – even the steam generated is recycled. The low bulk density of Hebel means that less than a quarter of the resources and raw materials are used than for other masonry products. CSR Hebel has earned the prestigious, internationally recognised “Good Environmental Choice – Australia’ label.

The endorsement is designed as a guide to consumers who want to choose environmentally friendly products. Hebel demonstrates a reduced environmental load of at least 30% in energy use in comparison to like products. To be able to qualify for this endorsement, a product must satisfy stringent requirements and CSR Hebel is proud to have been awarded the right to display the label. Hebel requires less than 33% of the raw materials needed for making clay bricks. **PowerWall uses 64% less embodied energy than Brick Veneer walls and results in 55% less green house gas emissions.**

Is Hebel healthy?

Hebel is non-toxic and does not emit any gas or substances. Hebel is the healthy choice for homes and work places. Hebel materials “breathe” allowing the release of internal moisture vapour, ensuring healthy indoor air quality. Hebel creates a safe and healthy environment.

How long has Hebel been around?

This revolutionary product was conceived over 60 years ago in West Germany and has gained worldwide acceptance. Hebel has been in Australia for over 17 years. Over 60% of homes in Japan are built with Hebel.

Is Hebel PowerPanel strong?

Hebel panels are solid and strong. They have the reassuring feel of traditional masonry with the added strength, durability and security provided by corrosion, protected, reinforcing steel in every Hebel panel. Hebel's recommended finishing systems provide added durability. A recent Impact Resistance Test study conducted by Dulux AcraTex, which manufactures Hebel's texture coatings confirmed that a home constructed and finished to Hebel specifications showed no wear at all when subjected to the abrasive affects of a Whipper Snipper and performed the same as clay bricks when struck with a claw hammer. Hebel homeowners can rest easy knowing that their homes will stay looking good for a very long time with very little maintenance to worry about.

What type of fixings can be attached to Hebel?

Yes there are many fixings on the market to secure things such as downpipes, light fittings, hose reels. Usually coarse thread screws are adequate, otherwise nylon plugs are used.

Can Hebel PowerWall be used on a Zero allotment?

Yes Hebel PowerWall will provide a fire rating higher than BCA requirements of 240/180/180

What happens with the installation of services – Electrical and Plumbing?

Electrical

The gap between the PowerPanel and the frame is 20mm, this is quite adequate to allow electrical services to be installed, the Meter box can be face fixed to the outside of the PowerPanels, or recessed into the stud frame through the PowerPanel, then all sides of the box sealed with a polyurethane sealant.

Plumbing

Plumbing services hot and cold pipes, can be externally face fixed to stud, but cannot protrude more than 20mm off the frame. When pipes are running vertically they must be mounted between the studs, so as not to foul the horizontal installation of Top Hats as these are not to be cut to allow clearance for services.

So why use Hebel?

Hebel is unique with many of its properties being unable to be met by another building product alone such as it's thermal insulation and fire resistance. The advantages are:

- Thermal Insulation
- Energy Efficiency and savings
- Fire resistance – it is non-combustible
- Excellent Acoustic Performance
- Easily worked with power tools and manual tools alike
- Quick and easy to install
- Lightweight but with a solid masonry feel
- Environmentally friendly