



Article Properties of Extrusion Concrete Panel Using Waste Concrete Powder

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Abstract: There has been an increasing amount of waste concrete generated in recent years, which has made recycling more important. Waste concrete is generally recycled as recycled aggregates, and many studies have been conducted to seek ways to improve their quality. Such quality improvement processes has led to the generation of byproducts such as waste concrete powder, which needs to be recycled efficiently based on further research. Accordingly, this study was conducted with the aim to use waste concrete powder (WCP) to substitute silica powder in the manufacturing of the extrusion concrete panels in cases where high SiO₂ content is not a requirement. The results of this study showed a negative correlation between flexural strength and silica powder-WCP substitution ratio. For example, 50% substitution resulted in a product that satisfied the required flexural strength over 14 MPa as stipulated by the Korean Industrials Standards, and it gave rise to properties such as specific gravity, absorption ratio, length change, thermal conductivity, and fire-resistance that were similar to those of plain specimens. Based on these results, it was deemed that it would be possible to use WCP as an alternative material in place of siliceous fillers in cases where high-purity is not required.

Keywords: waste concrete; waste concrete powder; extrusion panel; concrete panel; recycling; silica powder

1. Introduction

Concrete is a material that is used widely across human society, as it is a major component of various social infrastructures such as buildings, roads, and bridges. Given their widespread use, massive amounts of waste concrete are generated during the deconstruction and demolition of such structures. Concrete is mostly comprised of aggregates in terms of volume, and various environmental issues arise from collecting aggregates from rivers and land. For this reason, annual aggregate supply plans are established at the state level in Korea as a means to limit the acquisition of natural aggregates, and it is recommended that industrial byproducts such as waste concrete and steel slags be used to obtain aggregate instead [1].

Recycled aggregates obtained by crus hing and grinding waste concrete have higher absorption rates and a lower strength in comparison to natural aggregates. For this reason, concrete made with recycled aggregates naturally has substandard properties. In order to mitigate these issues, research has been performed to enhance the quality of recycled aggregates. The quality improvement processes can largely be divided into the wet type and the dry type. The wet processes involve the elution of calcium hydroxide, comprising of cement paste, for the purpose of weakening its strength and increasing

the difference of strength between the natural aggregates included in waste concrete and the cement paste as a means to enhance the separation efficiency. On the other hand, in the dry processes, an impact-type grinder is used to enhance the grinding efficiency, and the separation efficiency is determined based on the performance level of the grinder. In both processes, the amount of byproducts produced inevitably increases in relation to the enhanced quality of the recycled aggregates recovered. In the case of waste concrete powder (WCP), which is one of the byproducts of these processes, it is typically buried into the ground with soil as there are no suitable areas for its use, and thus, the issue of treating and recycling WCP has grown increasingly important. However, the byproducts arising from the wet processes are in the form of slurry, which means that they must be dehydrated and dried before they can be recycled, whereas the byproducts from the dry processes are relatively easier to recycle in comparison [2].

As for the concrete extrusion panel, it is a product manufactured through the continuous process of extrusion by using silica powder and pulp fiber as the main constituents and cement as a binder, and it is steam and autoclave cured after formation. Autoclave curing is performed for the purpose of improving the strength of the specimen by forming tobermorite, which is a calcium silicate hydrate. In these cases, silica powder acts as a source of SiO₂, as well as filler for the pores. Generally speaking, silica powder is added in more than a sufficient amount necessary for the reaction, and thus, low-grade silica powder, with less than 97% SiO₂ content, is used to reduce costs [3].

A review of the trends in research performed on such concrete extrusion panels showed that Kim et al. (2006, 2012) employed stone powder sludge as a means to improve the cost-effectiveness of panel production, while Choi et al. (2013) used alpha-hemihydrate gypsum to improve the fire-resistance of the panels. In the case of substituting silica powder with stone powder sludge, there was an increase in the absorption rate and a decrease in the density and flexural strength with higher substitution ratios, based on which it was deemed important to maintain an appropriate mixing ratio. In the case of substituting cement with alpha-hemihydrate gypsum, it was shown to improve the fire-resistance and slightly enhance the sound insulation, while maintaining the strength and dimensional stability of the concrete extrusion panel. The purpose of this type of research has been to maintain the existing performance levels, or to enhance some of the performances of panels, while reducing the cost of production by using recycled materials [4–6].

As a part of these efforts, this study aimed to apply WCP to the concrete extrusion panel production. The byproducts arising from the dry processes of recycled aggregate production are fine particles as they are typically generated in the crushing process, and they contain silica as the waste concrete, from which they are derived, contain sand and pebbles [7–9]. Based on this, it was deemed that such byproducts could replace the silica powder, acting as a filler and silica source, so that the use of natural resources and panel production costs could be reduced.

2. Materials and Methods

2.1. Experimental Plan

This study was conducted with the aim to examine the variations in the characteristics of the extrusion concrete panels according to the amount of silica powder, used as aggregates, substituted with WCP. The experimental plan is shown in Table 1. The experimental factor was determined to be the silica powder-WCP substitution ratio, and extrusion of the specimen was performed at substitution ratios of 0, 25, 50, 75, and 100 wt %. Then, the characteristics of extraction concrete panel specimens specified by the Korean Industrial Standards (KS), such as flexural strength, specific gravity, absorption rate, rate of change in length, and thermal conductivity according to absorption, and fire-resistance were reviewed.

Factors	Levels	Test Items	
Aggregate	Silica powder WCP *	Flexural strength Specific density Absorption ratio	
Replacement ratio (wt %)	0, 25, 50, 75, 100	- Length change Thermal conductivity Fire-resistance	

Table 1. Experimental plan.

* WCP: Waste concrete powder.

2.2. Materials

As for the cement, ordinary Portland cement (OPC) (Table 2) as prescribed in KS L 5201 was used. As a source of SiO_2 , silica powder plays an important role in the production of tobermorite in the process of autoclave curing, and also fills the voids of a cement matrix during extrusion.

Density (g/cm ³)		m ³) Blaine (cm ² /g) _		Setting Time				
		brunic (ciri /g)		Start (min)		Finish (mir	າ)	
3.15		3240	290 380		380			
		Chemical composition (%)						
LOI	SiO ₂	Al ₂ O ₃	Fe ₂ O ₃	CaO	MgO	SO ₃	K ₂ O	
0.35	21.88	5.02	3.66	64.18	2.01	1.83	0.92	

Table 2. Physical and chemical properties of ordinary Portland cement (OPC).

In this experiment, silica powder produced in Korea with the lowest grade of SiO₂ purity <97% and 4000 Blaine (cm³/g) was used. As for the reinforcement fiber, sepiolite fiber and pulp fiber were used, and these reinforce the strength by smoothing the product surface during extrusion as they have a high water absorption rate. A viscosity agent is used as a means to promote the fluidity of a mix paste, and the dosage was 0.7% of the paste weight ratio. During extrusion, high shear stress is applied as the mix paste becomes compressed and consolidated by the auger screw present inside of the extruder. For this reason, the fluidity and consistency of the mix paste are highly important, and without a viscosity agent, the unit water content needs to be extremely high and it becomes difficult to maintain the shape of the formed product [10]. The commonly used viscosity agents include hydroxypropyl methylcellulose, hydroxyethyl methylcellulose, and ethyl hydroxyl cellulose. In this particular experiment, hydroxyl ethyl methyl cellulose was used. Wollastonite is used in the extrusion concrete panel production for the purpose of improving the fire-resistance in place of asbestos, the use of which is restricted in construction as it is known to be harmful to humans due to the fact that it is a mineral synthesized by the supply of silicate with the penetration of magma into carbonate rock, and it has a high melting point of 1540 °C.

2.3. Waste Concrete Powder

The waste concrete powder that was used was generated by Korean company D, which manufactures recycled aggregates by using dry-type processes. The general process and mass balance are shown in Figure 1. In this process, carried out to produce recycled aggregates that are below 5 mm in size, waste concrete is first inputted into a roller crusher for the primary crushing process, and the impurities are filtered out through the screening process. The waste concrete materials that are below 5 mm in size are then fed into the 1-1 and 1-2 separators for aggregate production, while those that are above 5 mm in size are fed into a vertical shaft impact crusher (VSIC) so that they can be crushed further to be below 5 mm in size before being fed into the 2-1 and 2-2 separators for aggregate

production. Powder generated from each of the separators is collected by the dust collector, and it should be noted that 23.7% of the inputted waste concrete was turned into WCP in this experiment.

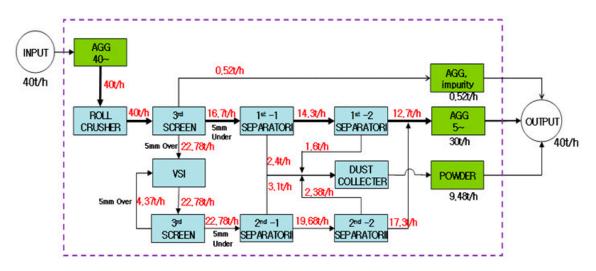


Figure 1. Flow and mass balance of waste concrete recycling process.

Figure 2 shows that the intermediate particle size (ave. 65 μ m) of WCP collected by the dust collector was 44, while the maximum particle size was over a hundred μ m. Table 3 shows the results of analyzing the composition of the silica powder and WCP used in this experiment. The silica powder had a 95% SiO₂ content, whereas WCP had 30% SiO₂ and CaO contents. Figure 3 shows that WCP particles from SEM are largely the harsh surface structure including the long-flat-slender types of features (left), as well as the existence of ettringite and calcium hydroxide (Ca(OH)₂), which are the hydration reaction products (right). A ball mill was used to grind WCP to have a similar fineness as the silica powder (approx. 4000 cm²/g), and the grinding conditions and the resulting fineness are shown in Figure 4.

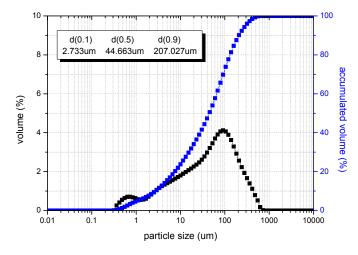
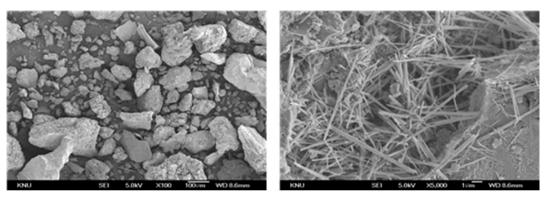


Figure 2. Particle size analysis of waste concrete powder (WCP).

	Chemical Composition (wt %)								Blaine
	LOI	SiO ₂	CaO	Fe ₂ O ₃	Al_2O_3	K ₂ O	SO_3	- (g/cm ³)	(cm ² /g)
WCP	2.8	31.8	39.0	10.5	7.4	4.7	3.5	2.60	<1000
Silica powder	1.7	95.5	-	0.7	1.9	-	-	2.66	4160



Magnification (×100)

Magnification (×5000)

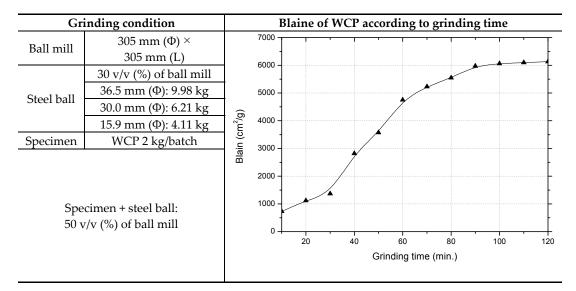


Figure 3. Waste concrete powder SEM images.

Figure 4. Blaine change according to grinding of WCP.

2.4. Experiment Method

The extrusion was performed using the extruder model SY-05S, manufactured by Japanese company I to form a panel with a 50×50 mm dimension. The panels were extruded by wet mixing (5 min) with a kneader mixer right after dry mixing (3 min) with the binder-fiber materials. Then, it was cut at every 200 mm in length to fabricate the specimens for the strength assessment. The experimental method is described in detail in Figure 5. Experimental products were then produced by applying the mixing ratio that would satisfy the strength specification prescribed in KS F 4735, and an assessment was carried out in regard to the strength, thermal conductivity, specific gravity, absorption rate, rate of change in length caused by water absorption, and fire-resistance [11,12].

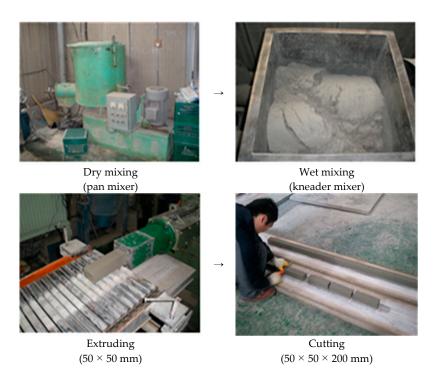


Figure 5. Experimental method.

2.5. Curing Method

The early-age strength and dimensional stability of an extrusion panel, a secondary concrete product, are important factors. For this reason, autoclave curing is performed to rapidly stabilize the structure and to achieve a degree of strength that is above a certain level. Figure 6 shows the curing method that is employed in this experiment. Steam curing was performed first on the panel extruded in air at 80 °C and normal pressure, and autoclave curing was performed at 180 °C, 10 atm. Majority of CaO-SiO₂-H₂O (C-S-H) hydrates are insoluble, and hydrates produced at temperatures below 100 °C are instable crystal structures. This is the case for CSH (I) and CSH (II), which are produced as a result of cement hydration. However, CSH, which underwent hydrothermal synthesis by autoclave curing at temperatures above 100 °C, is a relatively stable crystal structure that can be used as a hardened calcium silicate. Figure 7 shows the compounds of the C-S-H system. The autoclave curing process was performed for the purpose of synthesizing 11 Å tobermorite (C₅S₆H₅) and 14 Å tobermorite(C₅S₆H₉), found at the center of the diagram [13–15].

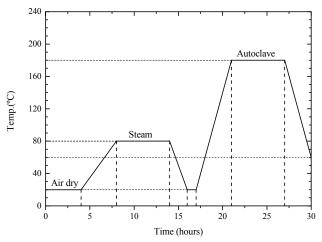


Figure 6. Curing process.

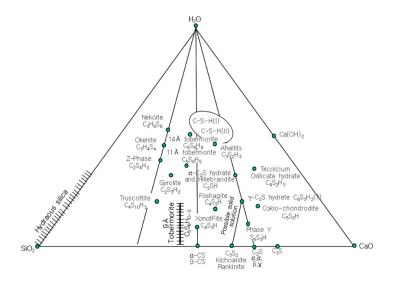


Figure 7. Compounds in C-S-H system.

3. Results

3.1. Strength

As described above, a bar-type extrusion experiment was carried out prior to the panel formation in order to examine whether the mix using WCP resulted in a strength level that satisfied the prescribed level for extrusion concrete panels. Table 4 shows the mix for the specimen production, and the number in the ID signifies the silica powder-WCP substitution ratio in terms of weight. The results of measuring the strength for the averaged 3 specimens for each mixing are shown in Figure 8. The flexural strength of the plain specimen was found to be 18.8 MPa. The flexural strength decreased with an increased substitution ratio, and it was measured to be 12.1 MPa at a substitution ratio of 100%. However, up to 50% substitution, the flexural strength was higher than 14 MPa, which is the prescribed level for extrusion concrete panels in KS F 4735. This showed the possibility of using a mix of silica powder and WCP. Accordingly, a mix in which 50% of the silica powder was substituted with WCP was used in the panel production process to fabricate panel-type specimens that include a void section, as shown in Figure 9. The specimens were then assessed for the flexural strength by trisection loading, as shown in Figure 9. The results of measuring the strengths of the 6 specimens are shown in Figure 10. In the case of the bar-type specimen, its strength was measured to be above 16 MPa, while the strength of the panel-type specimen was slightly lower at 14.1~15.2 MPa. Nevertheless, the strengths of both types were above 14 MPa, as prescribed by KS, and based on these results, it is deemed that the desired strength may be achieved more stably by adding a fiber material that can reinforce the flexural strength.

Table 4.	Mixture	design
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Unit Weight (kg/m ³)								
ID		Binder		Fib	— WollastoniteHPMC *		Water	
ID.	Cement Silica Powder		WCP	Sepiolite	Pulp		(chi me	Water
Plain	604.2	604.2	0.0	9.1	22.7	37.8	8.3	490.9
R *25	595.5	446.6	148.9	9.0	22.6	37.6	8.3	488.5
R50	598.4	299.2	299.2	9.0	22.4	37.4	8.2	486.1
R75	595.5	148.9	446.6	8.9	22.3	37.2	8.2	483.9
R100	592.7	0.0	592.7	8.9	22.2	37.0	8.1	481.5

* HPMC: Hydroxy Propyl Methyl Cellulose; * R: WCP replacement and number is replacement ratio.

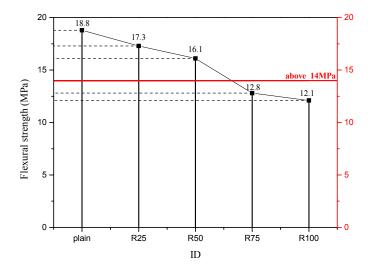


Figure 8. Flexural strength of bar type specimens.

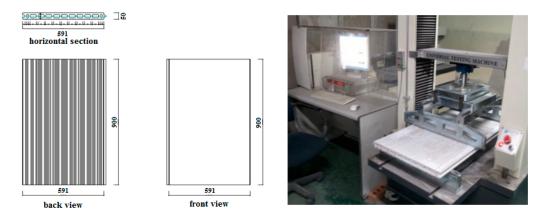


Figure 9. Shapes of panel specimens (left) and flexural strength testing set-up (right).

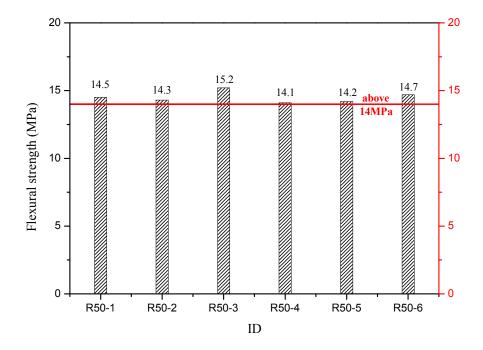


Figure 10. Flexural strength of panel type specimens.

3.2. Specific Gravity, Absorption Rate and Length Change

Extrusion concrete panels are primarily used as interior and exterior materials for buildings, and thus, KS specify the requirements for not only strength, but also specific gravity, absorption rate, and rate of change in length caused by water absorption. In this experiment, the latter three factors were measured at each curing stage, and of the results are shown in Table 5. In the case of specific gravity, it was positively correlated to the silica powder-WCP substitution ratio. This is thought to be due to the fact that the specific gravity of WCP (2.80 g/cm³) was slightly higher than that of silica powder (2.66 g/cm³). After the curing processes, the specific gravity decreased by about 0.2 g/cm³ in all of the specimens. This was due to the formation of voids in the crystal structures as a result of cement hydrates forming C-S-H systems during the steam and autoclave processes, and accordingly, the specific gravity decreased after the specimens became dry. All of the specimens satisfied the specific gravity criterion prescribed by KS, which is below 2.0.

Test Type	Curing	Replacement Ratio (%)				
	Level	Plain	25	50	75	100
	Air-dry	1.90	1.95	1.97	1.99	1.99
Specific gravity (g/cm^3) Below 2.0	Steam	1.72	1.76	1.81	1.89	1.92
	Autoclave	1.71	1.74	1.75	1.75	1.78
	Air-dry	6.52	6.65	7.18	7.15	9.20
Absorption rate (%) Below 18	Steam	8.87	9.02	9.24	9.68	14.14
-	Autoclave	12.03	11.97	12.11	12.31	14.69
	Air-dry	0.32	0.33	0.32	0.24	0.27
Length change (%) Below 0.12	Steam	0.19	0.19	0.17	0.12	0.13
	Autoclave	0.07	0.06	0.07	0.07	0.10

Table 5. Specific gravity, absorption ratio and length change.

KS prescribes that the absorption rate be lower than 18%. The results of the absorption rate test showed that the more curing stages (air-dried curing, steam curing, and autoclave curing) and the higher the substitution ratio, the higher the absorption rate was. To be more specific, the specimen with a 100% substitution ratio that was autoclave cured, had an absorption rate of 14.69%. An increase in the absorption rate caused by curing is deemed to be caused by the enlargement of voids in the crystal structures resulting from the formation of tobermorite crystals and C-S-H hydrates, as mentioned above. On the other hand, an increase in the absorption rate, caused by an increase in the substitution ratio, is deemed to result from the fact that there are more pores in the old cement paste hydrates in WCP than in silica powder. KS prescribes that the rate of change in length caused by absorption to be lower than 0.12%. The results of the experiment showed that the changes caused by the substitution ratio were minor, while there were variations caused by the number of curing stages that were conducted. The rate of change in length decreased with more curing stages, and this was determined to be due to the stabilization of the hydrate structures. The specimen, which was autoclave cured, was the only one that satisfied the specification of KS. Based on the results of the three tests above, it was determined that the autoclave curing is an essential element in producing extrusion concrete panels that conformed to KS, and that the formation of tobermorite had a strong influence on product stability.

3.3. Thermal Conductivity and Fire-Resistance

Thermal conductivity and fire-resistance are important characteristics of extrusion concrete panels, which are used as interior and exterior construction materials. In both experiments, a plain mix with 100% silica powder and an R50 mix with a 50% silica powder-WCP substitution ratio were used in the panel production process. In the case of the thermal conductivity experiment in Figure 11, the panels were cut into a dimension of $300 \times 300 \times 50$ mm, and HFM436 manufactured by Netzsch

(München, Germany) was used, in reference to KS M 3808: Foamed polystyrene for thermal insulation. Figure 11 shows the equipment for measuring a thermal conductivity of an extruded panel. The results of the experiment are shown in Table 6. The plain and R50 specimens had similar thermal conductivity: the plain specimen, in which silica powder was used as an aggregate, the thermal conductivity was measured to be $0.30 \sim 0.32$ (W/m·K), whereas the specimen, in which 50% of the silica powder was replaced with WCP, had a thermal conductivity of $0.29 \sim 0.33$ (W/m·K) [16].

Figure 11. Thermal conductivity equipment.

Туре	No.	Test Time	Mean T (°C)	Delta T (°C)	Thermal Conductivity (W/m∙K)	Termal Gradient (m ² ·K/W)
	1	0:50:35	25.67	20.15	0.302063	0.157386
	2	0:21:01	25.93	20.10	0.302105	0.157365
D1 ·	3	0:21:02	26.05	20.08	0.302220	0.157304
Plain	4	0:56:44	25.73	20.00	0.324385	0.146319
	5	0:21:01	25.96	19.96	0.322547	0.147152
	6	0:21:02	26.07	19.94	0.321748	0.147518
	1	0:55:06	25.79	19.98	0.334488	0.142052
	2	0:21:02	26.01	19.95	0.332706	0.142813
DEO	3	0:21:02	26.11	19.93	0.332077	0.143083
R50	4	0:58:17	25.85	20.18	0.297308	0.160590
	5	0:21:02	26.02	20.15	0.295605	0.161516
	6	0:21:02	26.10	20.13	0.294910	0.161896

Table 6. Thermal conductivity tests.

In the case of extrusion concrete panels, fire-resistance is also considered important when they are to be used as an interior material. Fire-resistance performance may not be of significance in this particular study considering its purpose, but an experiment was conducted on fire-resistance in order to examine whether the use of WCP had any impact on the performance of the panels. For the fire-resistance experiment, two pieces of each specimen were assembled into a dimension of 1×1 m. The fire-resistance testing method for panels is prescribed in KS F 2257-8: Method of fire resistance test for elements of building construction—Specific requirements for non-loadbearing vertical separating elements. The fire-resistance experiment was conducted in accordance with the above standards, and accordingly, the assessment items were divided into flame and thermal interruption performances. In the case of the thermal interruption performance, the time before interrupting the non-heated surface, which is unexposed to the flames, from reaching an average temperature increase of 140 °C, and the time before interrupting a particular spot from reaching the maximum temperature increase of 180 °C are specified. On the other hand, as for the flame interruption performance, there should be no heat or red heat on the cotton pads or the flames that exist for more than 10 s, and the crack gauge should not be penetrated [17,18].

Table 7 and Figure 12 show the results of the fire-resistance experiment performed on the plain and R50 specimens for 120 min under the standard time-heating curve condition. The initial temperature

at the beginning of the test was 21 °C for both cases. The standards prescribe that the non-heated thermocouples do not have an average temperature exceeding 161 °C, or that the highest temperature of one of the thermocouples does not exceed 20 °C. However, the plain and R50 specimens both exceeded these limits at 33 min and 35 min, respectively. Thus, they had a similar fire-resistance performance of 32 min and 34 min, and it was determined that there were no significant changes in the fire-resistance performance resulting from the use of WCP. Compared to panel made of silica powder, the fire-resistance performance for WCP slightly improved. This might be the results of a reduction of voids and pore water from the calcium type hydration products.

Test Items	Performance	e Criteria	Test Resu	lt Plain/(R50)	Fire Resistance Plain/(R50)	
	Penetration of crack gauge		N/A (N/A)	120 min (120 min)		
Flame interruption	Ignition of pa	ds surface	N/A (N/A)	120 min (120 min)	-	
performance	Occurrence of flame (10 s and over)		N/A (N/A)	120 min (120 min)		
	Initial Temp.	-	Mean 21 °C (Mean 21 °C)	-	-	
Thermal interruption	Mean temp. (non-heating surface)	161 °C	163 °C (162 °C)	33 min (35 min)	⁻ 32 min (34 mir	
performance	Max temp. (non-heating surface)	201 °C	206 °C (209 °C)	42 min (43 min)	-	
	Portable thermocouple	-	-	-	-	

Table 7. Fire-resistance tests during 120min.

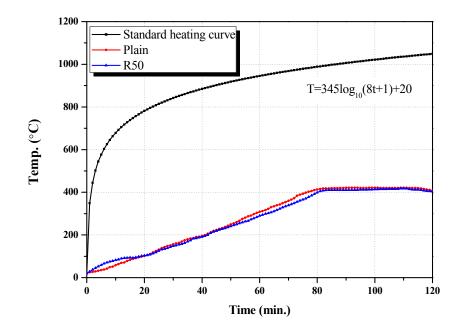


Figure 12. Time vs. temperature curves in fire-resistance tests.

4. Conclusions

The following conclusions were reached based on the experiments involving the use of waste concrete powder, a byproduct generated in the process of recycling waste concrete, to replace silica powder, which acts as a source of SiO_2 and filler during autoclave curing, in the production of extrusion panels:

- (1) An increase in the silica powder-WCP substitution ratio results in weakened strength, but the strengths of specimens with lower than a 50% substitution ratio surpassed the prescribed strength requirement of 14 MPa, and the strength of the specimen with a 50% substitution ratio also satisfied the requirement, which confirmed the possibility of using WCP.
- (2) The specimens in which WCP was used had a higher specific gravity and absorption rate when compared to the plain specimen in which only the silica powder was used, while the rate of change in length caused by water absorption was lower in the former specimens or equivalent. A review was performed in regard to the curing conditions, and the results showed that autoclave curing was essential in extrusion panel production as it not only ensured the strength of the panels, but also had an impact on density, absorption rate, and rate of change in length. The specimens containing WCP also satisfied the related standards.
- (3) The results of the thermal conductivity and fire-resistance tests showed that the specimens containing WCP had equivalent or superior characteristics in comparison to the plain specimens. This is deemed to be caused by the material characteristics of WCP, such as pores and bound water [19].
- (4) Based on the aforementioned experimental results, it was concluded that WCP, a byproduct from the recycling of waste concrete, is an adequate material to substitute silica powder in the production of extrusion concrete panels, which essentially do not require high purity. Based on this, the application of WCP to extrusion concrete panels and various fillers is expected to contribute to the reduction of treating byproducts, which are currently buried into the ground, and to the environmental protection efforts as it will help reduce the consumption of natural resources. Additional profits are also expected for the construction waste processing firms, as value is given to WCP, the yield of which has been increasing as a result of the production of high-quality recycled aggregates.

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Conflicts of Interest: The authors declare no conflict of interest.

Abbreviations

The following abbreviations are used in this manuscript:

Ordinary Portland Cement
Waste Concrete Powder
Vertical Shaft Impact Crusher
Hydroxy Propyl Methyl Cellulose
Korea Standard
CaO-SiO ₂ -H ₂ O
11 Å tobermorite
14 Å tobermorite

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