Abstract

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Fiber-cement composites for housing construction: state-of-the-art review

Fiber-reinforced cement-based materials have found increasing applications in residential housing construction. Currently, fiber-cement composite products can be largely found in nonstructural housing components, including siding and roofing materials. Advantages associated with pulp fibers include widespread availability from renewable sources, high fiber tensile strength, high fiber modulus of elasticity, relatively low cost, well-developed technology to extract the fibers. The fiber-cement composites themselves offer decay resistance, dimensional stability, “nailability”, good mechanical properties, among other characteristics. In this paper, the production, mechanical properties, durability, and applications of current fiber cement composite materials are reviewed. Future research needs and future applications of this class of material are also considered.