

Cob

Cob consists of clay, straw, sand, lime and water, which is mixed and becomes stiff when cured. The final product resembles a form of concrete. While the material can be load bearing for single story/low-rise structures, it is typically used as infill for timber post and beam walls.

Hazard Resilience

Wildfire



Fire-resistant
(2-4 hours of exposure)

Rain and Floods



Vulnerable to flood damage

Windy



Little information available about wind resistance

Extreme temperatures



Excellent thermal mass supports temperature regulation. Little insulation.

Seismic



Needs reinforcements for seismic resilience

Cob is a natural, sustainable building material.

- It can be constructed using locally available materials.
- It is relatively beginner-friendly and cost-effective.

However, cob is absent in the Building Codes and Regulations, which can make its use more complicated.

As of 2025, recent and credible public estimates of costs were not available. Estimates may be available through local suppliers. Generally, cob is made with relatively low-cost materials but is labour-intensive to work with.

