

# Preparation of Magnesium Phosphate Cement and Application in Concrete Repair

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**Abstract.** Potassium magnesium phosphate cement (MKPC) was prepared by using magnesium oxide (MgO) and potassium dihydrogen phosphate (KH<sub>2</sub>PO<sub>4</sub>, KDP). The effects of different calcination temperature, water-cement ratio and ratio on the operation of magnesium phosphate cement were studied. The effects of different water - cement ratio and ratio on the bonding strength of potassium magnesium phosphate cement and the application of potassium phosphate and magnesium cement in concrete repair and reinforcement were determined by experiments such as bending resistance, splitting, compression and bearing capacity. The experimental results show that the calcination temperature is 1100 °C, the calcination time is 1h, the settling time of magnesium oxide is 39min, and the compressive strength of one day reaches 53MPa. The water - cement ratio with the best bonding strength is 0.2, the mass ratio is 2:1. To meet the rapid repair of the construction requirements, is expected to be applied to the actual repair works.

## 1 Introduction

With the development of economy, people continue to improve the quality of life, and they have a higher requirement for travel quality. However, with the increasing number of road work, the load on the road is also growing. It means that appearance of pavement maintenance problems. Currently, the road in our country take cement concrete mainly, but the traditional maintenance method is generally the first to remove the damaged part, and then re-pouring, this method is not only time-consuming, and concrete to take longer maintenance time. At present, we know a kind of adhesive repair material is epoxy resin, but its functionalization research focus on experimental research. Due to its time-consuming, consumables, power consumption and type single and other disadvantages, so the test results are unpredictable. Meanwhile, epoxy resin achieve different functional applications often need to add functional filler, which hazardous to health and pollution of the environment. So it is necessary to study new materials that both to protect the environment, but also effective repair [1].

Magnesium phosphate cement prepared with lithium magnesium slag (MKPC) is a re-use of lithium waste and non-toxic, which is a new type of inorganic cementitious material with high bonding strength with old concrete. MKPC has the characteristics of early strength, fast hard, so that it can meet the requirements of rapid repair. MKPC saves

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energy and protects environment as a new type of fast repair materials, can be widely used in roads, bridges, airport runways, which has attracted more and more attention from academics and the community[2]. This paper improves the maneuverability and volumetric stability of lithium magnesium slag magnesium phosphate cement by adjusting the calcination temperature and the way of adding fly ash to reduce the cost and obtain a new type of quick repair material which is economical, practical and environmentally friendly, and verify its feasibility in practical engineering.

## 2 Experiment

### 2.1 Raw materials.

The raw materials used in this experiment are by-product magnesium oxide (MgO) in the process of extracting  $\text{Li}_2\text{CO}_3$  from Qinghai CITIC Guoan Technology Co., Ltd. and potassium dihydrogen phosphate ( $\text{KH}_2\text{PO}_4$ ) produced by Hedong District Hongyan Reagent Factory in Tianjin. Table1 is the chemical composition of lithium magnesium slag content. Table 2 is the technical indicators of potassium dihydrogen phosphate.

**Table 1.** The composition of magnesium hydroxide residue after producing  $\text{Li}_2\text{CO}_3$

Composition	Mg <sup>2+</sup>	B <sub>2</sub> O <sub>3</sub>	Ca <sup>2+</sup>	K <sup>+</sup>	Na <sup>+</sup>	Cl <sup>-</sup>	SO <sub>4</sub> <sup>2-</sup>	Li <sup>+</sup>	LOI*	Total
Mass fraction /%	59.22	4.91	0.33	0.027	0.36	0.92	0.45	0.25	32.55	99.02

**Table 2.**  $\text{KH}_2\text{PO}_4$  technical indicators

Chemical composition	$\text{KH}_2\text{PO}_4$	SO <sub>4</sub> <sup>2-</sup>	As	Fe
Percentage %	99.5	0.003	0.005	0.001

### 2.2 Experimental method.

The cement sample was manufactured in the case where  $\text{KH}_2\text{PO}_4$  and MgO mass ratio and water-cement ratio unchanged.  $\text{KH}_2\text{PO}_4$  and MgO in turn into the mortar, first dry mixing 2min, then added water at low speed stirring 1min, high-speed stirring 30s, and the stirred mixture was quickly poured into an iron mold of 10 mm x 10 mm x 10 mm, and shook it, and the specimen was placed at room temperature curing after demoulding. The strength of samples was tested at different ages[3]. The determination of the activity of magnesium oxide is shown in Ref4 [4].

## 3 Results and analysis

### 3.1 Effect of calcination temperature and time of lithium magnesium slag on MKPC.

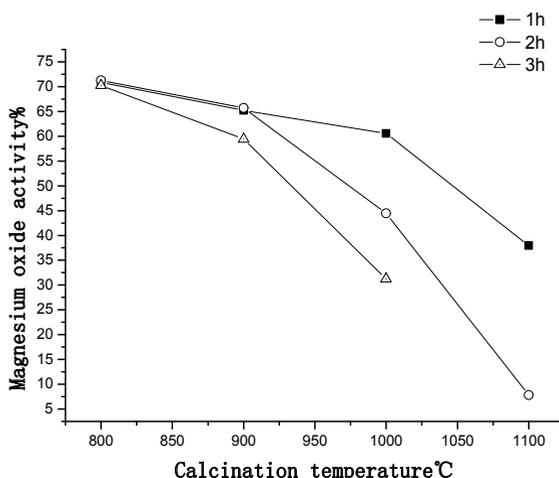
As the magnesium oxide content is low and the condensation of magnesium phosphate cement coagulation is fast, it is necessary to carry out calcination treatment of lithium magnesium slag, the optimum temperature for calcination is determined by the activity of magnesium oxide and the compressive strength of the samples.

Table 3 shows that with the increase of calcination temperature and the prolongation of calcination time, the setting time and compressive strength of MKPC increases gradually.

But taking into account the nature of engineering applications, condensation time too fast causes the actual can't operate. Meanwhile, the initial setting time can't be too slow. To meet the requirements of engineering construction, choosing the calcination temperature (1100°C) and calcination time(1h).

**Table 3.** Compressive strength of MKPC specimen/MPa

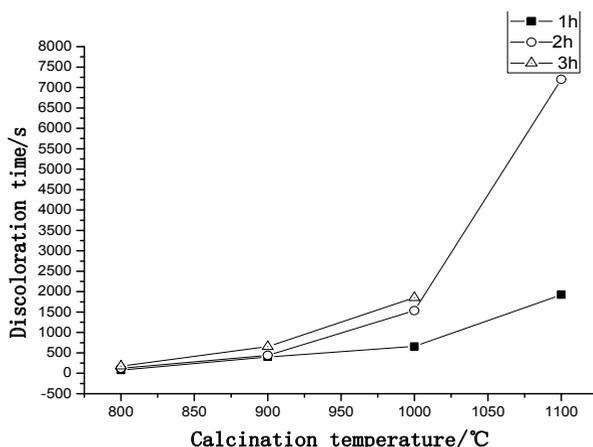
Calcination temperature and time	1h	1d	3d	7d	Setting time / min
800°C 3h	19.6	30.4	47.2	51.0	5
900°C 1h	21.1	52.3	57.4	62.2	8
900°C 2h	20.8	41.9	56.6	65.0	11
900°C 3h	19.1	48.3	62.9	64.0	12
1000°C 1h	21.0	51.9	62.5	68.8	15
1000°C 2h	9.4	49.6	56.6	62.8	28
1000°C 3h	-	33.5	42.5	52.2	63
1100°C 1h	8.0	53.4	61.0	64.5	39
1100°C 2h	-	39.1	50.2	52.9	65



**Fig.1.** Relationship between the activity of magnesium oxide and the calcination temperature

Fig.1 displays that with the increase of calcination temperature, the activity of magnesium oxide decreases gradually in the case of the same calcination time. At the same calcination temperature, the activity of magnesium oxide decreases with the increase of calcination time. It means that the MKPC will enhance the operability in the later stage. It is necessary to further verify the accuracy of the effect of calcination temperature on the activity of magnesium oxide by staining test.

The principle of staining test [5] is acid –base neutralization. Take the citric acid solution 50g (11%concentration) in the beaker (including rotor), then add two drops of phenolphthalein indicator. Placing it in a discoloration tester, then add 15 g magnesium oxide powder. Discoloration time is from adding powder to discoloration of solution.



**Fig. 2.** Relationship between calcination temperature and discoloration time of MgO

Fig.2 implies that the activity of magnesium oxide decreases with increase of calcination temperature and calcination time. It also proves the accuracy of the test.

### 3.2 Influence of concrete strength ratio and water cement ratio on MKPC.

#### 3.2.1 Plain concrete strength ratio.

When the water cement ratio was 0.2, the mass ratio of magnesium oxide and potassium dihydrogen phosphate is 1:1. The mass ratio of magnesium oxide and potassium dihydrogen phosphate was 1:1, 2:1, 2.5:1 and 3:1 respectively. The stirred mixture was quickly pasted onto the fracture surface of the concrete piece. Tested the flexural strength of 3h, 1d, 7d.

**Table 4.** Effect of MKPC mass ratio on bond strength/Mpa  
 (Temperature 1100°C Insulation 1h W / C 0.2)

Mass ratio	3h	1d	7d
1:1	4.59	2.67	4.70
2:1	5.01	5.30	7.11
2.5:1	4.90	6.01	5.22
3:1	3.93	-	-

Table 4 demonstrates that In the case where the water-cement ratio is kept constant, the best mass ratio of the adhesive strength is 2:1, water-cement ratio of 0.2, the mass ratio of 2:1 magnesium phosphate cement (MKPC) paste the concrete rupture surface, the 7d flexural strength up to 7.11MPa, which indicates that MKPC has a strong paste repair performance.

#### 3.2.2 Water cement ratio.

The mass ratio of magnesium oxide to potassium dihydrogen phosphate is 2:1, and the ratio of water to cement is respectively 0.16, 0.2, 0.25 and 0.3. The stirred mixture was quickly pasted onto the fracture surface of the concrete piece. Tested the flexural strength of 3h, 1d, 7d.

**Table 5.** Impact of water cement ratio on MKPC/Mpa  
 (Calcination temperature 1100°C insulation 1h ratio 2:1)

W/C	3h	1d	7d
0.16	Too dry that on operate		
0.2	5.01	6.30	7.11
0.25	4.06	6.32	5.71
0.3	3.89	4.19	4.56

The experimental data shows that it is so dry that can't be pasted when the water-cement ratio is 0.16, the MKPC has the best paste strength while ratio of 2:1 and water-cement ratio of 0.2, because its flexural strength of 7d can reach 7.1MPa. When the ratio of water to cement is greater than 0.2, the flexural strength of MKPC bonded concrete specimen decreases with the increase of water-cement ratio, The reason for this phenomenon is that increase of water-cement ratio cause MKPC shrinkage, and lower bond strength[6].

### 3.3 Impact of splitting repair experiment on MKPC.

The split 100mm × 100mm × 100mm concrete test piece was bonded with water ratio of 0.2, mass ratio of 2:1 and fly ash parameters of 30% of the MKPC slurry. Placed at room temperature for curing, testing 3h, 1d, 7d splitting tensile strength [7]. The experimental results were 11.67KN, 18.51KN, 21.38KN respectively, compared with the original splitting tensile bearing capacity, the bearing capacity were restored to the original value of 36.53%, 57.93% and 66.92%. It is indicated that MKPC does have a strong ability to paste, and the bonding speed with the concrete quickly.

## 4 Conclusions

(1) There is an economical and environmentally friendly method that utilizing industrial waste residue to prepare magnesium phosphate cement. The production process of MKPC was studied. It was found by experiment that magnesium phosphate cement was prepared with lithium magnesium slag to have the calcination temperature of 1100°C.

(2) In order to apply it to the actual work of repairing concrete, the mass ratio of magnesium oxide to potassium dihydrogen phosphate should be 2:1, the water-cement ratio is 0.2.

(3) In the application of potassium phosphate and magnesium cement engineering, it is found that potassium phosphate magnesium cement has a strong bonding capacity, fast hard, early strength through the bending, split and the others is a good choice for quick repair works.

(4) The preparation of magnesium phosphate cement in lithium magnesium slag, is a kind of environmentally friendly and economical magnesium phosphate cement preparation method, although there are still many problems can't be resolved, it will be more research and exploration on this project. In the future life of lithium magnesium slag prepared by potassium magnesium phosphate cement (new inorganic cementitious materials) can be widely used in roads, bridges, airport runways and other repair works.

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