

# What Makes Natural Hydraulic Lime Green?

- The amount of energy used at the production stage is one-quarter of what is needed to produce cement. Consequently, the release of CO<sup>2</sup> into the atmosphere is reduced considerably. Furthermore, NHL reabsorbs most of the CO<sup>2</sup> during the curing process, while cement reabsorbs none.
- NHL has received the LABELVERT EXCELL or "Green Label" in France. This label guarantees the total absence of contaminants and any risk of pollution. It also authorizes the use of this product in chemically sensitive areas such as living spaces, wine cellars, etc.
- The absence of detrimental chemicals like tri-calcium aluminate, potassium and sodium oxides, (which are ever-present in cement), protect NHL mortars from chemical reactions such as sulfate or alkali attacks.
- Very rapid evaporation of moisture from NHL mortars ensures that the drying cycle is faster than cement mortars and subsequently the heating requirements are lower.
- Material used in construction with NHL may be reused or recycled. In addition, the NHL mortar itself may be recycled in a number of ways, such as an aggregate for new lime mortars, fertilizer, (NHL is calcium carbonate), or it can be used for water purification or hazardous waste treatment.
- Breathability, elasticity, plasticity, gradual development of strength, low shrinkage, longevity, CO<sup>2</sup> absorption, self-healing, are all highly desirable. These traits, along with sustainability and greenness, are only some of the qualities of St. Astier Natural Hydraulic Lime (NHL).
- The change-of-use of older buildings through adaptation or preservation and restoration maximizes the need for the environmental recovery of materials. It is essential to ensure the long-term survival of these structures with compatible materials. Some buildings have been in use for centuries; there is no logical reason that this cannot continue. Preservation, adaptation and restoration can have significant environmental advantages over new construction. Aside from the environmental impact, there is the aesthetic value in preservation. Natural Hydraulic Limes have a significant part to play in this process.
- Material longevity is unsurpassed when applied and maintained correctly and its life will span over several generations.