

Making Houses from Hemp: Transcript



Can you build houses from hemp, and what exactly is hemp?



Lots of houses are built from bricks. Bricks are made from clay which is then baked in large, hot ovens. This uses a lot of energy. It can add a lot of carbon dioxide to the atmosphere. Using energy like this is adding to climate change.



But it is possible to build modern houses using materials from a plant called hemp. It is used to make a type of concrete that can be used to make walls.



Hemp is planted by farmers and it grows in their fields. While the hemp grows it actually takes in carbon dioxide from the atmosphere.



When it is fully grown it is harvested like any other crop. Hemp has long stalks and these contain strong fibres. It is these fibres that are useful in the concrete.



Once it has been collected, the hemp is processed in a factory. This strips out the fibres.

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They are mixed with lime mortar, this is like a thick porridge, and the mixture makes the concrete. If it is left to set, it goes really hard and strong. This type of concrete is called hempcrete. The hempcrete can be used to build a house.



The builders make a wooden frame in the shape of the walls. This acts as a mould that the hempcrete can be poured into. All the gaps are filled.



The hempcrete eventually reaches the top of the house. The walls just need to dry now and they go really solid. Strong as houses.



After the rest of the work has been finished the scaffolding is taken away. You can see a house made from hemp.