1	Pozzolanic activity of tiles, bricks and ceramic sanitary-ware in eco-friendly Portland
2	blended cements
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4	A.M. Pitarch ^a , L. Reig ^a , A.E. Tomás ^a , G. Forcada ^a , L. Soriano ^b , M.V. Borrachero ^b , J. Payá ^b , J.
5	M. Monzó ^b
6	
7	^a EMC - Department of Mechanical Engineering and Construction, Universitat Jaume I,
8	Castellón de la Plana, Spain. pitarcha@uji.es; lreig@uji.es; atomas@uji.es;
9	gforcada@outlook.es
10	
11	^b ICITECH - Instituto de Ciencia y Tecnología del Hormigón, Grupo de Investigación en
12	Química de los Materiales (GIQUIMA), Universitat Politècnica de València, Valencia, Spain.
13	lousomar@upvnet.upv.es; vborrachero@cst.upv.es; jjpaya@cst.upv.es;
14	jmmonzo@cst.upv.es
15	
15	Corresponding author: L. Reig Reig Quij es / Tel : +34 064 720161 / Eav: +34 064 728106
10	Corresponding author. L. Neig, <u>neigi@dji.es /</u> 1el.: 134 904 72910171 ax. 134 904 720100
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21 Abstract

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23 Reusing ceramic waste as a pozzolanic admixture may offer environmental benefits as it 24 allows the reduction in the consumption of natural resources and energy, and the reduction of CO₂ emissions associated with Portland cement (PC) production, while valorising waste 25 26 materials with a long biodegradation period. This paper assessed the pozzolanic activity of 27 three different ceramic waste types: red clay bricks (RCB), ceramic tiles (TCW) and ceramic 28 sanitaryware (CSW). After adapting their particle size by crushing and milling, each was used 29 to replace 0 to 50 wt.% PC (CEM I 42.5 R type). The milled powders were characterised by 30 laser diffraction, field emission scanning electron microscopy (FESEM), X-ray fluorescence 31 (XRF) and X-ray diffraction (XRD), and consistency and setting time tests were used to 32 investigate the fresh behaviour of the ceramic waste/PC blended pastes. A basic 33 sustainability analysis was performed, and the pozzolanic activity of RCB, TCW and CSW 34 was assessed by compressive strength tests (performed in mortars cured at room 35 temperature from 3 to 365 days) and microstructural analyses (thermogravimetry, XRD and 36 FESEM performed in the pastes cured at 20°C for 28 and 90 days). The pozzolanic reaction 37 of these waste materials improved with curing time, and all the mortars prepared with up to 38 25 wt.% RCB, TCW or CSW met the mechanical requirements set out for coal fly ashes, 39 whatever the ceramic waste type used. Among them, these results open up the possibility of 40 partially replacing PC with the closest available ceramic waste, which would reduce the CO₂ 41 emissions and economic cost deriving from transporting waste.

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Keywords: Portland cement, ceramic waste, waste management, pozzolanic activity,
 compressive strength.

47 **1. Introduction**

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49 Sustainable development, based on environmental conservation and responsible use of 50 resources, is one of the biggest challenges faced today. Thus the construction industry in 51 general, and cement production in particular, are essential contributors for a transition 52 towards low carbon economy. Portland cement (PC) is a key construction material that is 53 widely used worldwide. As reported by the European Cement Association based in Brussels 54 [1], it is estimated that 4.1 billion tonnes of cement were globally produced in 2017, and 55 China was the leader producer (56.5% of global production), followed by India (6.8%) and 56 CEMBUREAU members (6.3%) [1]. As explained by Kajaste and Hurme [2], PC production is 57 one of the world's highest CO₂-emitting processes and is responsible for around 5-8% of the 58 carbon generated worldwide. Approximately 0.75 kg of carbon dioxide per kg of produced 59 cement is emitted to the atmosphere, which come mainly from limestone (CaCO₃) 60 decomposition and the combustion of the fuel required to reach clinkering temperatures 61 (≈1,450°C) [3-5]. As Imbabi et al. [6] stated, with no changes in the current production rate 62 and manufacturing processes, it is estimated that CO_2 emissions will have approximately 63 multiplied those registered in 1990 by 5 by 2050. These predictions were conservative 64 because, although less than 2 billion tonnes of CO_2 were expected to be emitted to the 65 atmosphere in 2010, 3.24 billion tonnes were registered in 2012. Thus the increasing use of 66 PC demands a real urgent change in order to develop sustainable, durable and cost-effective 67 binders. Both the cement industry and scientific community are actively seeking alternatives 68 to reduce emissions which, in 2018, had dropped by almost 14% since 1990. The 5C 69 programme developed by CEMBUREAU compiles the widest possible set of alternatives to 70 lower the carbon emissions released by the cement industry. The different proposals are 71 classified in five categories: Clinker, Cement, Concrete, Construction and Carbonation, of 72 which the last refers to CO₂ capture technologies. Imbabi et al. [6] also summarised four 73 different approaches that have been developed mainly to minimise CO₂ intensity and to 74 improve energy efficiency associated with cement production: a) improve manufacturing 75 processes; b) co-incineration of waste materials during cement production; c) use of 76 Supplementary Cementitious Materials (SCMs) in cement; d) develop novel resource-77 efficient cements. Of these, SCMs have been widely used as fillers or pozzolans, and the 78 latter implies their reaction with the Ca(OH)₂ released during PC hydration to provide 79 cementitious products [7,8]. One of the materials satisfactorily used to partially replace PC is 80 ceramic waste [9-14], which is durable, hard and very resistant to physical, biological and 81 chemical degradation. As previously explained in [15], large amounts of ceramic waste are 82 generated yearly from demolition practices or production defects, and dumping it in landfills 83 leads to environmental problems due to dust pollution and the occupation of vast expanses 84 of land. Thus reusing ceramic waste materials in PC contributes to both diminish the

85 potential environmental impacts caused by landfill deposits and reduce the use of energy,

natural resources and greenhouse gas emissions associated with PC production.

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88 As Ay and Unal [12] or Turanli [16] explained, although clay minerals in their original state do 89 not present pozzolanic reactivity, they may acquire it when thermally treated given the 90 destruction of the crystal structure of clay and the formation of amorphous or disordered 91 aluminosilicate phases. The changes that occur in ceramic materials during the firing process 92 have been described by Mohammed [3]: the removal of free water from clay (dehydration) 93 occurs from 20°C to 200°C, and is followed by the dehydroxylation process that consists in 94 loss of the chemically combined water from the OH groups contained in clay minerals; during 95 dehydroxylation, the crystalline structure of clay constituents collapses, which results in 96 unstable silica and alumina with an amorphous or disordered lattice structure. Decarbonation 97 (release of CO₂) of compounds, such as calcite or dolomite, occurs within the 700-900°C 98 range; finally, exothermic recrystallisation takes place at temperatures above 900°C, which 99 may result in the formation of new thermodynamically stable phases that can reduce the 100 pozzolanic activity of ceramic materials [3,17]. The study by Baronio and Binda [17], in which 101 clays were calcined up to 1,000°C, observed that their pozzolanic activity improved when 102 calcined at temperatures between 600°C and 900°C (depending on the type and amount of 103 clay used), but diminished when calcined at more than 900°C. However, the study by Turanli 104 et al. [16] reported slightly better relative strength values (compared to the reference mortar) 105 when replacing 20 wt.% PC with slab bricks (SB) sintered at 1,000-1,100°C than when using 106 the same amount of wall bricks (WB) fired at 800-900°C, (86% and 78% strength activity 107 indices were recorded in the SB- and WB-containing mortars cured for 28 days, 108 respectively). The review by Mohammed et al. [3], who analysed the pozzolanic behaviour of 109 clays, clay waste and ceramic products like bricks or tiles, concluded that the reactivity of 110 calcined clays depended mainly on the degree of dehydroxylation, fineness of particles, and 111 their SiO₂ + Al₂O₃ + Fe₂O₃ content. Binici 2012 [8] and Sánchez de Rojas et al. [13] stated 112 that the optimum dehydroxylation temperature and time to break the crystalline structure of 113 clay depended on clay mineral. Accordingly, as the production of ceramic materials is guided 114 to obtain optimal properties for a specific use (hollow or load-bearing bricks, wall or floor tiles, 115 sanitaryware units, etc.), sintering temperatures will either presumably differ from the 116 optimum ones considered for complete clay minerals dehydroxylation or probably lead to the 117 formation of new crystalline stable phases [3,12,17], which is expected to reduce the 118 pozzolanic activity of ceramic products. Nonetheless, several studies [9-14] have 119 successfully proved the pozzolanicity of ceramic waste materials when blended with PC, 120 along with the environmental benefits that this implies. Puertas et al. [10] evaluated the 121 pozzolanic activity of six different ceramic tile types. They concluded that they all exhibited 122 pozzolanic behaviour after 15 curing days, which was strongly influenced by their chemical

123 composition (high silica and alumina contents) and amorphous content (close to 35 wt.% in 124 three tile types). The studies by Mas et al. [11] and Ay and Unal [12], who used ceramic tiles 125 as pozzolanic admixtures in PC systems, found that mortars containing up to 35 wt.% 126 ceramic waste met both the requirements set out in fly ash regulations [11] and those stated 127 for the cement standard for calcined natural pozzolans (ASTM C 618) [12], respectively. 128 Sánchez de Rojas et al. [13] also noticed some contribution to compressive strength in PC 129 mortars cured for 28 days at room temperature when replacing up to 15 wt.% PC with clay 130 roof tiles. Pereira-de-Oliveira 2012 compared the pozzolanicity of glass, bricks and tiles (10-131 40 wt.% PC replacement), and corroborated that it was strongly influenced by calcination 132 temperature because no pozzolanic behaviour was observed when using brick waste. 133 However, Toledo-Filho et al. [9] observed a minor influence on the mechanical properties of 134 mortars when replacing 20 wt.% PC with clay bricks calcined at 850°C.

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136 All these studies have successfully proved the viability of employing ceramic materials as 137 pozzolanic admixtures in PC systems, and have consequently encouraged the utilisation of 138 blended cements with lower clinker contents, moving towards the use of more sustainable 139 construction materials. However, only some studies have compared the pozzolanic activity of 140 different ceramic waste types under the same study conditions. Additionally, as the reactivity 141 of ceramic materials depends mainly on their sintering process, unexpected disadvantages 142 may appear when using this waste to replace PC, such as less early strength, longer setting 143 times or delayed cement hydration. Therefore, this research aims to compare the pozzolanic 144 activity of red clay bricks (RCB), tiles ceramic waste (TCW) and ceramic sanitary-ware 145 (CSW), and to provide further information on ceramic waste/PC blended binders.

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- 148 **2. Materials and Methods**
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- 150 2.1. Materials
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152 Figure 1 shows the three herein used ceramic waste materials. TCW was composed of 153 different ceramic tile types (porcelain stoneware, floor and wall tiles) produced by ceramic 154 companies located in the province of Castellón (Spain). This waste was supplied as granular 155 material and its particle size fell within the 4-16 mm range. The RCB and CSW pieces were 156 collected from dumps filled with construction waste. Portland cement (PC) type CEM I 42.5R, 157 which complied with the Spanish Cement Reception Instruction [18], was used to assess the 158 pozzolanic activity of these ceramic waste materials. Mortars were prepared using siliceous 159 sand with a maximum particle size of 2 mm and a fineness modulus of 2.74.



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Figure 1. The original RCB, TCW and CSW ceramic waste materials

164 2.2. Ceramic waste preparation and characterisation

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166 RCB and CSW were broken with a hammer. The different ceramic materials were crushed in 167 a jaw crusher (BB200 Retsch) until a particle size under 2 mm was achieved. Crushed 168 particles were milled in alumina media (Orto-Alresa ball mill) to obtain a powder with a 169 fineness close to that of PC. To this end, two jars containing 1,100 g of ceramic waste and 170 165 balls of alumina, with diameters ranging from 15 to 40 mm (total weight of alumina balls 171 was 4,860 g), were used. The milling time was optimised for each ceramic material to obtain 172 similar granulometric distributions in the shortest grinding time (6 h for the RCB and TCW; 173 and 8 h for the CSW).

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175 The granulometric distribution of the milled powders was determined in a Mastersizer 2000 176 (Malvern instruments) and their morphology was observed under a field emission scanning 177 electron microscope (FESEM) ZEISS Supra 55, with a working distance of 6-8 mm for the X-178 ray microanalysis (EDS). The chemical composition of RCB, TCW and CSW was determined 179 by X-ray fluorescence (XRF, Philips Magix Pro spectrometer), and their amorphous content 180 was evaluated following UNE EN 196-2 specifications. The crystalline phases were identified 181 by X-ray diffraction (XRD) in a Brucker AXS D8 Advance using Cu Kα radiation at 20 mA and 182 40 kV from 10° to 70° 20 degrees.

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184 2.3. Mortar sample preparation

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186 The compressive strength evolution with increasing waste contents was assessed in mortars. 187 The three ceramic waste materials (RCB, TCW and CSW) were used to replace 0 to 50 wt.% 188 PC (CEM I 42.5R), and a binder:sand:water weight ratio of 1:3:0.5 was used. These samples 189 were produced according to Standard UNE EN 196-1:2005. They were cured in a 190 temperature- and humidity-controlled chamber (20°C and 95%) for up to 365 days. After 191 curing for 24 h, samples were demoulded and then immersed in water with calcium 192 hydroxide until the testing age. The process variables herein used, together with the 193 designations of samples, are summarised in Table 1.

Ceramic waste	Designation	binder:sand:water weight ratio	PC replacement, wt.%	Curing temperature, °C	Curing age, days
-	REF		0		
	RCB15		15	_	3, 7, 28, 90, 180 and 365
Ded alow briek	RCB25		25		
Red clay blick	RCB35		35		
	RCB50		50		
	TCW15		15	_	
Tile ceramic	TCW25	1:3:0.5	25	20	
waste	TCW35		35		
	TCW50		50		
	CSW15		15	_	
Ceramic	CSW25		25		
sanitaryware	CSW35		35		
	CSW50		50		

Table 1. Process variables of the developed RCB, TCW and CSW PC blended samples

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2.4. Fresh behaviour and mechanical properties of the ceramic waste/PC blended binders 197

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199 Variation in the consistency and setting time with the different amounts of RCB, TCW and 200 CSW were investigated in pastes according to Standard UNE EN 196-3:2005. All these 201 pastes were prepared with a constant amount of water (145 g) and, while the reference paste 202 contained 500 g of PC, they were partially replaced with the different percentages (15 to 50 203 wt.%) of each ceramic waste type (RCB, TCW and CSW). The compressive strength 204 evolution with the distinct ceramic waste materials and contents was assessed in mortars 205 following Standard UNE EN 196-1:2005 and using a MEH-3000 PT/W by Ibertest. Additional 206 data on the pozzolanic reactivity of RCB, TCW and CSW was provided by the determination 207 of the strength activity index (SAI) and the strength gain (SG) values. SAI is the relative 208 strength between the pozzolanic (15 to 50 wt.% PC replacement) and the reference (0 wt.% 209 ceramic waste) mortars, and the SG attributed to the pozzolanic contribution was calculated 210 according to Eq. (1).

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$$SG(\%) = \frac{|S_{POZ} - (S_{REF} \cdot PC\%)|}{S_{REF} \cdot PC\%} \cdot 100$$
(1)

212 213

214 where:

- S_{POZ} = compressive strength of the mortar with the ceramic waste (RCB, TCW or CSW); 215
- 216 S_{REF} = compressive strength of the reference mortar;
- 217 PC% = percentage of PC in the mortar containing the ceramic waste (per unit).

- 218 2.5. Microstructural characterisation of the ceramic waste/PC blended binders
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220 The reference paste (100 wt.% PC) and those containing 25 wt.% RCB, TCW or CSW, cured 221 at room temperature for 28 and 90 days, were used to assess the microstructural evolution of 222 the ceramic waste/PC blended cements. Crystalline phases were identified by X-ray 223 diffractometry (XRD), which were run in a Brucker AXS D4 Endeavor powder diffractometer 224 equipped with a Lynxeye detector, from 5 to 70 20 degrees, at 40 kV and 40 mA, with Cu Ka 225 radiation. The thermogravimetric analyses (TG) performed aimed to assess the compounds 226 formed after the hydration of the pastes and to determine the percentage of fixed lime. This 227 value provided information on PC hydration and pozzolanic reactions, and it was determined 228 as previously explained in [11]. TG tests were run in a Mettler Toledo TGA/DSC3, using 229 closed aluminium crucibles (100 µl) with a perforated lid. These tests were conducted from 230 35°C to 600°C at a heating rate of 10°C/min in nitrogen atmosphere. In order to confirm the

- 231 presence of the compounds previously identified by XRD and TG, and examine the density 232 of the developed pastes, their microstructures were observed by FESEM, using the 233 equipment previously described in Section 2.2.
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235 2.6. Sustainability analysis

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237 To estimate the environmental impact of reusing RCB, TCW or CSW as a partial 238 replacement of PC, a basic sustainability analysis was conducted. A gate-to-gate life cycle 239 analysis approach was followed, which contemplated only the CO₂ emissions associated with 240 binder production. This simplified calculation contemplated neither the transport of the 241 materials from their origin to the laboratory, nor the mixing or curing of pastes and mortars, or 242 other mortar life cycle stages, such as maintenance or demolition. To calculate the embodied 243 specific energy (e-energy) and embodied specific CO_2 (e- CO_2) emissions of the ceramic 244 waste/PC blended cements, the e-energy and e-CO₂ values previously reported for CEM I 245 42.5 (5,500 MJ/ton [19] and 750 kg CO₂/ton [5], respectively) were used. Moreover the 246 percentage of PC replacement, and the energy and CO₂ emissions generated when crushing 247 and milling ceramic waste were considered. The jaw crusher BB200 Retsch, employed to 248 crush the ceramic waste materials, is driven by a 1,4914 kW power unit, and it took 2 249 minutes and 30 seconds to crush 1 kg of ceramic waste. The Orto-Alresa ball mill used to 250 reduce the size of waste was equipped with a 150 W power unit, and two jars containing 1.1 251 kg of crushed ceramic particles were employed in each batch. An emission factor of 0.241 kg 252 CO_2 eg/kWh was utilised to convert the used energy into CO_2 emissions (data obtained from 253 the Spanish Ministry for the Ecological Transition and Demographic Challenge for 2019 [20]). 254

As previously proposed by Xiao et al. [21], in order to take into account the 28-day compressive strength of the developed binders in the sustainability analysis, two additional factors were calculated, E_s and C_s , determined according to Eq. (2) and (3), respectively.

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$$259 \qquad E_{S} = \frac{e - energy}{S_{POZ_{28d}}}$$

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$$261 \qquad C_{\rm S} = \frac{e - CO_2}{S_{\rm POZ_{28d}}} \tag{3}$$

where:

 E_s = Embodied energy in relation to the 28-day compressive strength of the pozzolanic mortar, MJ/ton · MPa;

265 C_s = Embodied CO₂ in relation to the 28-day compressive strength of the pozzolanic mortar,

266 kg CO₂/ton · MPa

267 S_{POZ_28d} = compressive strength of the pozzolanic mortar cured for 28 days, MPa.

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270 **3. Results and Discussion**

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- 272 3.1. Ceramic waste material characterisation
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The milling time selected for each ceramic waste, together with the granulometric parameters obtained after the milling process, are summarised in Table 2. All the powders presented a close granulometric distribution and, although CSW particles were slightly larger than RCB or TCW, they all had a mean diameter that came close to 20 μ m, 90 vol.% of particles below 56 μ m and 10 wt.% vol. under 1.62 μ m.

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Table 2. Milling time and granulometric parameters of the ceramic milled powders

Ceramic waste	Milling time, h	Mean diameter, µm	d₁₀ µm	d₅₀ μm	d ₀₀ µm
RCB	6	19.87	1.31	11.24	52.31
TCW	6	19.67	1.60	14.01	46.81
CSW	8	22.26	1.62	14.09	55.88

²⁸¹

Table 3 shows the chemical composition and amorphous content of the three ceramic wastes herein employed. All the ceramic materials were composed mainly of SiO₂ and Al₂O₃, with bigger quantities in CSW (the sum of 89.6%) compared to those recorded for TCW and RCB (the sum of 79.8% and 66.5%, respectively). RCB and TCW presented relatively high Fe₂O₃ contents, and the sum of SiO₂, Al₂O₃ and Fe₂O₃ in them all was above 70%, which Mohammed et al. [3] pointed out to be an important parameter that promotes pozzolanic

(2)

activity. Amorphous content varied from 35 to 60 wt.% (RCB and TCW, respectively), and the amount of vitreous phases recorded for TCW and CSW fell within the range previously reported by Zanelli et al. [22] for porcelain stoneware tiles (40-75 wt.%, a range obtained after analysing 93 different samples).

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Table 3. Chemical composition of RCB, TCW and CSW ceramic wastes, wt.%

Ceramic waste	SiO ₂	Al ₂ O ₃	CaO	MgO	K ₂ O	Fe ₂ O ₃	SO ₃	LOI*	Other	Amorph.
RCB	49.9	16.6	9.7	5.5	4.4	6.5	3.3	2.4	1.7	35
TCW	61.2	18.6	5.8	1.8	3.3	5.0	0.09	0.7	3.5	60
CSW	66.0	23.6	1.2	0.7	2.9	1.3	0.07	0.3	4.0	46

295 *At 1,000°C 296 297 The mineralogical composition of RCB, TCW and CSW is presented in Figure 2. All the 298 ceramic materials showed signals due to quartz (Q, SiO₂; PDFcard 331161), while mullite (M, 299 Al₆Si₂O₁₃; PDFcard 150776) was identified only within the spectra of TCW and CSW (bigger 300 amounts in CSW, denoted by higher-intensity signals). This was attributed to the lower 301 sintering temperatures applied to produce RCB (usually fired up to approx. 900°C) [23] 302 compared to those used to make ceramic tiles, whose peak temperatures usually vary within 303 the 1,120–1,220°C range [11], or CSW, whose plateau in the heating curve generally falls 304 within the 1,200-1,280°C range [24]. Small amounts of sodium feldspar albite (A, NaAlSi₃O₈; 305 PDFcard 190926) were distinguished in the TCW and RCB diffractograms, and signals due 306 to microcline (m, KAISi₃O₈, PDFcard090466) appeared in the RCB and CSW patterns. 307 Traces of diopside (D, CaMg(SiO₃)₂; PDFcard 190239) and rankinite (R, 2SiO₂·3CaO, 308 PDFcard220539) were also identified in TCW and RCB, respectively. These crystalline 309 phases typically form in ceramic materials, and have also been distinguished in previous 310 studies, where TCW was used to partially replace PC [11], and RCB or CSW were utilised as 311 precursors in alkali-activated binders [25,26]. The deviation from the baseline observed 312 within the 15-30° 20 degree range corroborates the presence of amorphous phases in all the 313 ceramic waste materials, as previously quantified in Table 3. In the RCB waste these 314 disordered phases are explained by the dehydroxylation of the clay [3,23], while in the TCW 315 and CSW their presence is attributed to the formation of new vitreous phases from the 316 melting of feldspars which, according to Zanelly et al. [22], occurs from approximately 317 1050°C.



Figure 2. X-ray diffractogram of the ceramic waste materials. Q: Quartz (SiO₂); M: Mullite (Al₆Si₂O₁₃);
A: Albite (NaAlSi₃O₈); m: Microcline (KAlSi₃O₈); D: Diopside (CaMg(SiO₃)₂); R: Rankinite
(2SiO₂·3CaO)

- 323 The micrographs of the milled ceramic waste materials (see Figure 3) display irregular 324 particles with a smooth surface. No significant differences were observed among them.
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Figure 3. Field emission scanning electron microscope images of the milled RCB, TCW and CSW particles

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330 3.2. Consistency

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332 Variation in consistency, reported as the distance between the lower side of the 1 cm-333 diameter plunger and the bottom of Vicat's apparatus, depending on the different ceramic 334 waste types and contents, is plotted in Figure 4. Minor variations in consistency were 335 observed when replacing PC with TCW, and the results slightly lowered (better workability) 336 with increasing CSW additions, and significantly increased with RCB content, which denotes 337 loss of workability in the RCB/PC blended systems. As all the herein used milled ceramic 338 particles presented a similar morphology (Fig. 3), the obtained results were attributed mainly 339 to water absorption differences. The results agree with those previously reported by Pitarch

340 et al. [27], who employed the same RCB, TCW and CSW waste materials to replace natural 341 aggregates in structural concrete. In their study [27], water absorption values of 15.76 wt.%, 342 6.28 wt.% and 0.69 wt.% were recorded for the RCB, TCW and CSW particles (up to 4 mm 343 in size, used as recycled sand), respectively. Our results also agree with those previously 344 reported by Mas et al. [11] in PC/TCW blended systems, whose consistency values 345 (determined by the flow table test) varied within a narrow range (150-160 mm) in mortars 346 containing up to 50 wt.% TCW. The authors [11] attributed these minor variations to the low 347 porosity and smooth surface of the tile ceramic particles.

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352 3.3. Setting time

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354 The evolution of the initial and final setting times (IST and FST, respectively) with the 355 different ceramic waste types and contents is shown in Figure 5. Minor variations in both IST 356 and FST were generally observed, and the largest differences were recorded in the PC/CSW 357 system. Replacement of PC with RCB, TCW or CSW slightly prolonged the time when 358 pastes started losing their plasticity (IST), and the maximum variation was recorded in the 359 pastes containing 25 wt.% CSW, or more (170 min, 20 min later than the REF paste). The 360 slightly prolonged IST facilitates the transportation, placing and compaction operations of the 361 concrete prepared with these blended cements. Although the FST lowered by 10-15 minutes 362 in the RCB samples (220-225 min vs. the 235 min recorded for the REF paste), it hardly 363 varied with the amount of RCB. The FST became progressively shorter with increasing 364 amounts of TCW (up to 220 min with 50 wt.%) and, contrarily, gradually prolonged with CSW

365 content (up to 270 min with 50 wt.%). This implied that the time in which the sample 366 remained under plastic condition, required for handling the paste, mortar or concrete 367 samples, hardly varied in the RCB/PC samples, became progressively shorter in the TCW-368 blended pastes (from 85 min with 15 wt.% TCW to 60 min with 50 wt.% TCW) and prolonged 369 in those prepared with CSW (from 75 min with 15 wt.% to 100 min with 50 wt.%). The results 370 of the PC/CSW blended systems coincided with those previously reported by Medina et al. 371 [28], who observed that partially replacing PC with CSW (10 wt.% or 20 wt.%) modified the 372 rheology of pastes and retarded their hydration. The RCB/PC system results came close to 373 those previously reported by Naceri et al. [29], who observed shorter IST and FST in the 374 cements developed by partially replacing clinker with brick ceramic waste (up to 20 wt.%). 375 However, differences in the results herein obtained (the IST was slightly longer in the 376 RCB/PC systems) were attributed mainly to the increasing gypsum-to-clinker ratios used by 377 Naceri et al. [29] with higher ceramic contents, because those authors mixed a set amount of 378 gypsum no matter what the clinker replacement was.





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382 3.4. Compressive strength of pozzolanic mortars

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The evolution of compressive strength (MPa), strength activity index (SAI, %) and strength gain (SG, %) with the different study parameters (curing age, types and amount of ceramic waste used) are plotted in Figures 6 to 8. To correlate the strength parameters with curing age, simple linear equations were established according to Equation (4) for each ceramic waste and PC replacement percentage.

Figure 5. Setting time of the blended RCB, TCW and CSW PC pastes

$$390 \qquad S_{PARAMETER} = a \cdot \ln(t) + b$$

- 391
- 392 Where:
- 393 S_{PARAMETER} = Strength parameter: compressive strength (MPa), SG (%) or SAI (%);
- 394 t = curing age, days
- 395 In = natural (based-e) logarithm

a and b = constants for each ceramic waste type and PC replacement percentage

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398 As Figure 6 shows, similar compressive strength results were obtained for a given 399 replacement percentage, no matter what ceramic waste was used. Given that the three 400 ceramic waste materials herein used had a close particle size distribution and similar SiO₂ + 401 Al₂O₃ + Fe₂O₃ contents (Section 3.1), these results are mainly attributed to the pozzolanic reactivity of the amorphous phases formed during their production processes which, as 402 403 explained in Section 3.1, derive from the dehydroxylation of the clay (RCB) and the melting 404 of feldspars (TCW, CSW). Although the strength values recorded at short curing ages (3 or 7 405 days) significantly lowered compared to the reference mortar, they came closer with the 406 curing time, especially in the samples containing up to 25 wt.% ceramic waste (close to 50 407 MPa after 90 curing days).

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As plotted in Figure 7, all the mortars blended with up to 25 wt.% ceramic waste met the requirements set out in UNE EN 450-1 for fly ash [30], and their SAI values were over 75% and 85% after 28 and 90 curing days, respectively. The 35 wt.% RCB mortars met the standard requirements; the 35 wt.% CSW mortars were at the limit and up to 25 wt.% TCW could be used according to these specifications. In addition to the pozzolanic effect, the slightly better results obtained when using RCB are also attributed to its higher water 419 absorption when compared with that registered for TCW and CSW (15.76%, 6.28% and 420 0.69%, respectively [27]). The relatively high RCB water absorption progressively reduced 421 the workability of the blended cements with increasing RCB contents and also diminished the 422 effective water (that available to react with cement, determined as the total amount of water 423 minus that absorbed by the ceramic waste particles). Thus, the reduction in the water to 424 cement ratio, as widely known, improves strength and durability. However, the contribution 425 on strength of these ceramic waste-based materials improved with curing time and all the 426 ceramic waste/PC blended mortars presented similar long-term strength: all the mortars 427 blended with 35 wt.% ceramic waste had SAI indices over 90% after being cured for 1 year. 428 In other words, the strength of the mortars prepared with 65 wt.% PC reduced by only 10% 429 after 365 curing days respect to the reference mortar (100% PC as binder). This means that 430 these blended mortars are an interesting alternative that contributes to sustainable 431 development in applications that do not require high strength at short curing times.

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Figure 7. Strength activity index of the mortars prepared with 0 to 50 wt.% RCB, TCW or CSW, cured
at 20°C from 3 to 365 days

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The strength gain (SG) results reported in Figure 8 show that RCB contributed some strength to the system with short curing ages (3 and 7 days). Although TCW and CSW presented some negative SG values after 3 and 7 curing days, they became positive with curing time, especially with increasing waste contents. In agreement with the compressive strength and SAI results, similar SG values were recorded after 365 curing days for a given replacement percentage whatever the ceramic waste material used.





445 446

from 3 to 365 days

447 The regression data for the different ceramic waste materials and replacement percentages 448 are presented in Table 4. Constant 'a' illustrates the slope of the linear regression, while 'b' 449 indicates the intercept of the strength parameter (compressive strength, SAI or SG) with the 450 Y axis. The generally obtained high coefficient of determination (R² typically higher than 0.94) 451 denotes good simple linear regressions between strength parameters and the based-e 452 logarithm of curing age. The slope of the linear regressions generally increased with the 453 replacement percentage, which indicates a stronger influence with curing time with larger 454 amounts of waste. Contrarily, the b-intercept values lowered with increasing ceramic 455 contents, which agrees with the lower strength results and activity indices observed at short 456 curing times. The positive b-intercept SG values obtained with up to 25 wt.% RCB confirmed 457 some contribution of this waste at short curing ages.

458

459 Table 4. Linear regression data for the compressive strength, SG and SAI of RCB, TCW and CSW PC 460

blended mortars

gth	Regression	RCB						TCW				CSW				
		PC replacement, wt.%					Р	PC replacement, wt.%				Р	PC replacement, wt.%			
Strenç		0	15	25	35	50	0	15	25	35	50	0	15	25	35	50
	а	4.69	5.21	5.34	6.07	6.25	4.69	4.84	5.82	5.98	6.29	4.69	5.81	6.43	6.77	6.59
σ _C , MPa	b	32.38	27.25	24.97	18.79	10.91	32.38	27.87	21.42	16.98	7.63	32.38	25.05	19.79	15.01	7.79
	R ²	0.89	0.94	0.96	0.97	0.99	0.89	0.95	0.97	0.99	0.99	0.89	0.97	0.97	0.98	0.99
	а	-	0.018	0.025	0.048	0.068	-	0.011	0.040	0.051	0.074	-	0.031	0.051	0.066	0.078
SAI, [–] %	b	-	0.86	0.80	0.64	0.42	-	0.88	0.71	0.59	0.33	-	0.81	0.67	0.54	0.34
	R ²	-	0.95	0.94	0.97	0.99	-	0.63	0.96	0.95	0.95	-	0.94	0.92	0.96	0.94
	а	-	0.021	0.033	0.074	0.135	-	0.013	0.053	0.078	0.147	-	0.036	0.068	0.102	0.155
SG, %	b	-	0.02	0.07	-0.02	-0.17	-	0.03	-0.06	-0.10	-0.34	-	-0.04	-0.10	-0.17	-0.32
	R^2	-	0.95	0.94	0.97	0.99	-	0.63	0.96	0.95	0.95	-	0.94	0.92	0.96	0.94

462 The obtained results agree with those previously reported by Wild et al. [31], who 463 investigated the influence of firing temperature (600 to 1,100°C) on the pozzolanic activity of 464 clays. These authors [31] observed that the mortars containing up to 20% of clay that had 465 been calcined at 600-800°C gave good strength results after 28 curing days, while those 466 prepared with clays calcined at higher temperatures (from 800°C to 1,100 °C) exhibited 467 better strengths after 90 curing days. Mas et al. [11] observed low pozzolanic activity for 468 TCW at short curing ages, which became significant after 28 curing days (SG values from 469 10% to 32% with up to 50 wt.% PC replacement). Puertas et al. [10], who investigated the 470 pozzolanic behaviour of six different ceramic tile types, also concluded that they all 471 presented pozzolanic activity after 15 curing days. The strength results came close to those 472 previously reported by Lavat et al. [32], who used three different roof tile types to replace up 473 to 40 wt.% PC. These authors concluded that the partial replacement of PC with up to 20-30 474 wt.% did not significantly affect the compressive strength of the developed mortars. Similarly, 475 no significant variations in the strength values were observed by Toledo-Filho et al. [9] when 476 replacing up to 20 wt.% PC with ceramic brick waste (93% SAI after 28 days). The herein 477 obtained SAI results also came close to those previously reported by Pereira de Oliveira et 478 al. [14], who recorded relative strength values of 85% and 80% in mortars containing 25 wt.% 479 bricks and 25 wt.% tiles, respectively, after 28 curing days.

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1 3.5. *Microstructural evolution of the ceramic waste/PC blended binders*

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483 The derivative thermogravimetric curves of the reference paste (REF) and those containing 484 25 wt.% RCB, TCW or CSW, cured at room temperature for 28 and 90 days, are plotted in 485 Figure 9. The total weight loss values (TWL) have been indicated in percentage. No 486 significant differences were observed among the DTG curves recorded for the cements 487 blended with the three different ceramic waste materials. The signals arising from 100°C to 488 180°C are attributed to the dehydration of ettringite and calcium silicate hydrates (CSH), 489 while those appearing at slightly higher temperatures (180-240°C) are assigned to the 490 dehydration of calcium aluminate and calcium aluminosilicate hydrates (CAH and CASH) 491 [11,33]. As expected, the intensity of these bands grew with curing time. The signal that 492 arose due to the dehydroxylation of Ca(OH)₂ (520 to 600°C) was weaker on the DTG curve 493 of the blended pastes (from -2.17 to -2.36 wt.% and from -2.54 to -2.77 wt.% in the 25 wt.% 494 pastes cured for 28 and 90 days, respectively) than in the reference sample (-3.12 wt.% and 495 -3.69 wt.% after 28 and 90 curing days, respectively). This was explained by the lower PC 496 content (dilution effect), and by the pozzolanic contribution and particle effect of RCB, TCW 497 and CSW which modifies the total amount of portlandite released during PC hydration.

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for 28 and 90 days.

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503 The percentages of fixed lime calculated for the blended pastes prepared with 25 wt.% RCB, 504 TCW or CSW, cured at 20°C for 28 and 90 days, are shown in Figure 10. The negative or 505 nearly-zero values recorded in the 25 wt.% CSW and TCW pastes cured for 28 days denote 506 higher Ca(OH)₂ contents than those theoretically expected in a paste prepared with 75 wt.% 507 PC and without ceramic waste. In agreement with the compressive strength results, these 508 negative fixed lime values indicate that, until 28 curing days, the particle effect generally 509 prevailed over the pozzolanic reaction, and provided new nucleation sites that facilitated 510 cement hydration [33]. The bigger amounts of lime fixed by the RCB waste fall in line with the 511 scarcely higher SAI values recorded for these mortars. These results confirmed the slightly 512 better pozzolanic activity exhibited by this waste up to 90 curing days, compared to that 513 shown by the TCW and CSW powders.

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prepared with 25 wt.% RCB, TCW or CSW, cured at 20°C for 28 and 90 days.







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520 The XRD spectra for the PC reference paste and those blended with 25 wt.% RCB, TCW or 521 CSW, cured at room temperature for 28 and 90 days, are plotted in Figure 11. In line with the 522 XRD spectra of the raw ceramic waste materials, signals due to quartz (Q, SiO₂, PDF 523 #331161) appeared in all the blended pastes. Although some crystalline phases as mullite 524 (M, Al₆Si₂O₁₃, PDF #150776), albite (A, NaAlSi₃O₈), microcline (m, KAlSi₃O₈), diopside (D, 525 CaMg(SiO₃)₂) and rankinite (R, 2SiO₂·3CaO) had also previously been identified in the 526 original RCB, TCW or CSW (Section 3.1, Figure 2), they were not clearly distinguished in the 527 spectra of the blended pastes. This was attributed to the small amount of ceramic waste in 528 the paste (25 wt.%), the essentially amorphous nature of the formed CSH gel, and the high 529 crystallinity of quartz, whose peaks partially hid those brought about by other minor phases.

530

531 The 28-days XRD diffractograms contained signals attributed to unreacted larnite (R, β -532 Ca₂SiO₄, PDF #330302). The peaks originated by the diffraction of Portlandite (P, Ca(OH)₂, 533 PDF #040733) showed a similar intensity in all the pastes except that containing RCB. Given 534 the lower amount of PC in the blended pastes, this corroborated that the particle effect 535 originated by the ceramic waste accelerated cement hydration. In agreement with the fixed 536 lime values (Figure 10), XRD results confirmed that RCB partially consumed Ca(OH)₂ via 537 pozzolanic reactions.

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All the pastes showed peaks that arose due to ettringite (E, $Ca_6Al_2(SO_4)_3(OH)_{12} \cdot 26H_2O$, PDF #411451), which came about through the reaction between tricalcium aluminate and calcium sulphate, both contributed by PC. Signals originated by calcite (C, CaCO₃, PDF #050586) and $Ca_4Al_2O_6CO_3 \cdot 11H_2O$ carboaluminate (B, PDF #410219) were also distinguished in all the pastes, while those arising due to $Ca_8Al_4O_{14}CO_2 \cdot 24H_2O$ carboaluminate (L, PDF #360129) only appeared in the 28-days samples.

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Figure 11. X-ray diffractograms of the pastes prepared with 0 and 25 wt.% RCB, TCW or CSW, cured at 20°C for 28 and 90 days. Q, quartz (SiO₂); E, ettringite (Ca₆Al₂(SO₄)₃(OH)₁₂·26H₂O); P, portlandite (Ca(OH)₂); R, larnite (β -Ca₂SiO₄); C, calcite (CaCO₃); B, carboaluminate (Ca₄Al₂O₆CO₃·11H₂O); L, carboaluminate (Ca₈Al₄O₁₄CO₂·24H₂O)

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Figure 12 shows the microstructure of the reference paste and those containing 25 wt.% RCB, TCW or CSW, cured at 20°C for 28 days. As expected from the TGA and XRD tests, unreacted ceramic particles coexisted with plane hexagonal portlandite, ettringite needles and amorphous hydration products (CSH and CASH gels). These phases were differentiated both by their morphology and by their composition, determined by EDS microanalysis. The ceramic waste particles were completely surrounded by reaction products, and calcium silicate hydrate was the main reaction product observed.



Figure 12. FESEM images of the reference paste and those prepared with 25 wt.% RCB, TCW or
CSW, cured at 20°C for 28 days. E: Ettringite; P: Portlandite; CSH: Calcium silicate hydrate; CASH:
Calcium aluminosilicate hydrate; Q: Quartz; TCW: Tile ceramic waste; CSW: ceramic sanitary-ware
waste

568 3.6. Sustainability analysis

569 The results obtained after running the basic sustainability analysis of the developed ceramic 570 waste/PC blended binders are summarised in Table 5. As observed, the e-energy and e-CO₂ 571 values for the blended cements progressively lowered with increasing RCB, TCW or CSW 572 contents. The E_S and C_S parameters, which considered the 28-day compressive strength, 573 were calculated from the linear regression data (Table 4). In general terms, the E_S values for 574 the blended cements were similar or slightly lower than those calculated for CEM I 42.5R, 575 and were only higher when replacing 50 wt.% PC with ceramic waste. This was attributed 576 mainly to two factors: 1) the relatively low compressive strength values exhibited by the 50 577 wt.% blended mortars, in which the dilution effect involved small amounts of portlandite

578 available for the pozzolanic reaction; 2) the crushed ceramic particles were milled under 579 laboratory conditions. Thus, the employed energy would probably be lower if milling would be 580 carried out in industrial installations, with less required energy and, consequently, lower E_s 581 values would be achieved.

582

583 The e-CO₂ values also lowered with increasing percentages of ceramic waste, which yielded 584 an interesting reduction for the C_S parameter, especially when replacing 25 wt.% and 35 585 wt.% PC. More specifically, the RCB/PC blended cements reduced C_8 by 11.6% and 13.5% 586 (compared to CEM I 42.5R) when using 25 wt.% and 35 wt.% RCB, respectively. These 587 reductions were 7.3% and 8.6% with TCW and 7.0% and 8.2% with CSW (same PC 588 replacement percentages). Due to the pozzolanic reaction evolution, these CO_2 emissions 589 per tonne of cement and MPa further reduced with curing time. Consequently after 365 590 curing days, the following C_s reductions were determined: 16.2% and 22.7% for 25 wt.% and 591 35 wt.% RCB; 15.1% and 19.2% for the same amounts of TCW; 16.9% and 21.5% for the 592 corresponding cements blended with CSW.

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In short, the partial replacement of PC with RCB, TCW or CSW allowed new binders to be designed with green chemistry principles. The developed ceramic waste/PC binders are environmentally friendly cements that allow waste materials to be reused, while lowering greenhouse gas emissions and the use of natural resources and energy associated with PC production. Additionally, a reduction in the cost of the newly-designed blended cements is expected because the emissions and costs linked with extracting and preparing natural raw materials also diminish, along with green taxes related to climate change policies.

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Table 5. E-energy, e-CO₂, E_S and C_S of the ceramic waste/PC blended cements

Cement	PC Replacement, wt.%	e-Energy, MJ/ton	e-CO ₂ , kg CO ₂ /ton	Es *, MJ/ton · MPa	Cs *, kg CO₂/ton · MPa
PC CEM I 42.5R	0	5500	750	114.6	15.62
	15	4929	655	110.5	14.67
	25	4549	591	106.4	13.82
RCB/PC	35	4169	527	106.8	13.51
	50	3598	432	113.4	13.61
	15	4929	655	112.0	14.88
	25	4549	591	111.5	14.48
ICW/FC	35	4169	527	113.0	14.29
	50	3598	432	125.9	15.10
	15	5003	659	112.7	14.85
	25	4672	599	113.3	14.54
C3W/PC	35	4341	539	115.5	14.34
	50	3844	448	129.2	15.07

*Values obtained for 28-days curing mortars.

603 **4. Conclusions**

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This research assessed the influence of RCB, TCW and CSW ceramic waste materials as
 pozzolanic admixtures in PC-blended systems. According to the obtained results, the
 following conclusions were drawn:

Consistency of pastes significantly increased with RCB content, hardly varied with
 TCW replacements and slightly improved with larger amounts of CSW. These findings were
 attributed mainly to the water absorption of the ceramic waste materials.

Replacing PC with these ceramic waste materials slightly prolonged the IST of the
 blended systems (up to 20 additional minutes). The FST was cut when RCB or TCW were
 used as pozzolanic admixtures (up to 15 minutes shorter than the reference paste), and
 progressively prolonged with CSW contents (up to 35 min longer).

No significant differences in the mechanical properties of the developed mortars were
observed when partially replacing PC with RCB, TCW or CSW. The TCW- and CSW-blended
mortars containing up to 25 wt.% ceramic waste met the mechanical requirements set out for
fly ashes, and presented SAI values over 75% and 85% after 28 and 90 curing days,
respectively. RCB somewhat contributed to short-term compressive strength, and provided
these SAI values with up to 35 wt.% contents.

The mechanical contribution of all the ceramic materials improved with curing time.
For a given percentage of replacement, similar compressive strength results were obtained
after 365 curing days (over 50 MPa with up to 35 wt.% RCB, TCW or CSW, close to the 56
MPa recorded for the reference sample).

The embodied energy and CO₂ emissions reduced with increasing replacements of
 PC with RCB, TCW or CSW. After 365 curing days, the calculated CO₂ emissions per tonne
 of used cement and MPa diminished from 15.1% to 16.9% (compared to PC CEM I 42.5R)
 when replacing 25 wt.% PC with any these ceramic waste materials.

629

630 The obtained results show that the three different herein used ceramic waste types are 631 potential candidates to partially replace PC. Although further research must be conducted to 632 effectively transfer these results to industry, a priori up to 25 wt.% PC can be replaced with 633 any of these ceramic waste materials. This opens up the possibility of reusing regionally 634 available ceramic waste as supplementary cementing material, helping to further reduce the 635 carbon footprint associated with excessive PC use, as it minimizes emissions from 636 transporting materials. Reusing and valorising RCB, TCW or CSW in PC-blended systems 637 contributes to reduce not only the environmental impact caused by PC production, but also 638 the accumulation of waste materials. This will promote sustainable development based on 639 the design of green building materials.

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- 648

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- Figure Captions:
- 741
- 742 Figure 1. The original RCB, TCW and CSW ceramic waste materials
- 743

Figure 2. X-ray diffractogram of the ceramic waste materials. Q: Quartz (SiO₂); M: Mullite

- 745 (Al₆Si₂O₁₃); A: Albite (NaAlSi₃O₈); m: Microcline (KAlSi₃O₈); D: Diopside (CaMg(SiO₃)₂); R: 746 Rankinite ($2SiO_2 \cdot 3CaO$)
- 747
- Figure 3. Scanning electron microscope images of the milled RCB, TCW and CSW particles
- 750 Figure 4. Consistency of the blended RCB, TCW and CSW PC pastes
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- 752 Figure 5. Setting time of the blended RCB, TCW and CSW PC pastes
- 753
- Figure 6. Compressive strength of the mortars prepared with 0 to 50 wt.% RCB, TCW or CSW, cured at 20°C from 3 to 365 days
- 756
- Figure 7. Strength activity index of the mortars prepared with 0 to 50 wt.% RCB, TCW orCSW, cured at 20°C from 3 to 365 days
- 759
- Figure 8. Strength gain of the mortars prepared with 0 to 50 wt.% RCB, TCW or CSW, curedat 20°C from 3 to 365 days
- 762

Figure 9. DTG curves of the pastes prepared with 0 and 25 wt.% RCB, TCW or CSW, curedat 20°C for 28 and 90 days.

- 765
- Figure 10. Percentage of fixed Ca(OH)₂ determined for the ceramic waste/PC blended pastes prepared with 25 wt.% RCB, TCW or CSW, cured at 20°C for 28 and 90 days
- Figure 11. X-ray diffractograms of the pastes prepared with 0 and 25 wt.% RCB, TCW or CSW, cured at 20°C for 28 and 90 days. Q, quartz (SiO₂); E, ettringite (Ca₆Al₂(SO₄)₃(OH)₁₂·26H₂O); P, portlandite (Ca(OH)₂); R, larnite (β -Ca₂SiO₄); C, calcite (CaCO₃); B, carboaluminate (Ca₄Al₂O₆CO₃·11H₂O); L, carboaluminate (Ca₈Al₄O₁₄CO₂·24H₂O)
- 774
- Figure 12. FESEM images of the reference paste and those prepared with 25 wt.% RCB,
 TCW or CSW, cured at 20C for 28 days. E: Ettringite; P: Portlandite; CSH: Calcium silicate

- hydrate; CASH: Calcium aluminosilicate hydrate; Q: Quartz; TCW: Tile ceramic waste; CSW:
- ceramic sanitary-ware waste