SECRETES OF ROMANS’ DURABLE MARINE CONCRETE REVEALED

Unlike modern concrete, Roman concrete used to create piers and breakwaters got stronger over time. Researchers have found that this is due to seawater reacting with volcanic material in the concrete to produce a strengthening mineral, aluminous tobermorite.

BACTERICIDAL COMPOUNDS FORM ON THE SURFACE OF MARS

Experiments have shown that the perchlorate compounds found on the surface of Mars can form hypochlorite and chlorite compounds when exposed to UV rays. These had a bactericidal effect, which suggests the chances of finding life on the surface of Mars are low.

RECYCLING COMPUTER PLASTICS FOR TOYS CAUSES PROBLEMS

A study examining how some plastic toys and food packaging can inadvertently contain banned brominated flame retardants found inappropriate recycling is likely to blame. Rare earth element concentrations point to recycled computer plastics as the source.

METHANOL CLOUD SPOTTED AROUND ENCELADUS

Using a ground-based telescope scientists have discovered a higher than expected quantity of methanol around Saturn’s moon Enceladus. Their findings suggest it is created by chemical reactions in space after water-rich plumes are expelled from the moon’s south pole.

POSSIBLE EXPLANATION FOR GREENLAND’S ANNUAL ALGAL BLOOM

Every year an unexplained algal bloom off the coast of Greenland turns the sea water turquoise. New data shows a correlation between glacial meltwater entering the sea and the timing of the bloom, possibly due to an influx of iron particles washed from rocks.