

D.2 SETTING POLYSTEEL FORMS IN WET FOOTINGS

One of the most common time and labor saving procedures used in the installation of PolySteel Forms is setting the first course of forms into a wet footing (“wet setting”). This procedure requires experience, care, and proper planning, however there are numerous advantages to learning this skill. The photos below help illustrate the process.

D.2.1 ADVANTAGES.

Those experienced in this technique will tell you that wet setting:

- ✓ Firmly secures the first course of forms to the footing, eliminating the need to glue forms to the footing.
- ✓ Allows for a more a precise placement of vertical rebar dowels in the wall.
- ✓ Ensures a straight and level first course without the need to shim or shave forms to compensate for variances in a completed footing or slab.
- ✓ May allow you to complete a stem wall on the same day that footings are poured.

D.2.2 WET SETTING PROCEDURES.

There is no substitute for proper planning to help ensure good execution. The following procedures have been tried and tested in the field and should effectively guide you in this process.

1. Establish the outside corner locations for the structure. Work with your footing contractor to determine where he/she established the dimensions for the footings.
2. Set up batter boards at the corners to hold the string lines that will establish the exterior perimeter of the PolySteel wall. Batter boards should be set up 3 to 5 feet outside of the footing excavation to remain out of the work area.
3. If the footing is not otherwise determined with forming material, set grade pins to the desired height of the top of the footing every 8 feet so the concrete can be screed off level.
4. Set exterior perimeter string lines 23-1/2” above the established finished grade of the top of the footing.
5. Lay out all of the forms and rebar dowels to be used in the first course so that they are easily accessible, yet out of the way of the placement of concrete in the footing. Mark locations of windows and doors so that cut forms can fall into these areas. Pre-cut forms for any odd angles in advance.
6. If you are working with very dry soil, or under hot weather conditions, you may want to wet the soil under the footing, or place a moisture barrier on the soil to minimize the loss of moisture out of the concrete during installation.
7. Begin placing concrete at one corner and screed off the top to the top grade of the footing. Watch Your Slump! Weather conditions can effect concrete setup time. Too wet a mix will take longer to set and the forms will want to float. Too dry a mix may prevent you from setting the forms and/or the rebar.

D.2 SETTING POLYSTEEL FORMS IN WET FOOTINGS

D.2.2 WET SETTING PROCEDURES (continued).

8. Starting at the corner, set the forms into the wet concrete approximately 1/2" and align the outside shoulder of the form with the string line. Level the forms as you proceed. When you get really good at this, you can even connect multiple forms together, end to end, to set more forms at one time.
9. As the concrete is setting up, install pre-cut vertical rebar as required and check the forms for plumb and square. If they are trying to float because the concrete is too wet, place a weight on top to hold them down.
10. Allow first course of forms to set, and continue placing forms up the wall.

NOTE: *If the concrete sets before you get the entire perimeter wall completed, don't panic. You can simply shave the rest of the forms and set them on the footing as you normally would with a dry set.*



SET BATTER BOARDS
AND STRING LINES



LAYOUT FORMS



PLACE FORMS



CHECK FOR LEVEL
AND PLUMB



CHECK FOR LEVEL
AND PLUMB



SET DOWELS