

Contractor

Service & Industry

Bulletin

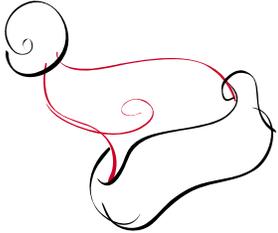
November / December 2012



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607-432-8391, Fax 607-433-6284



Otsego Ready Mix, Inc.
2 Wells Avenue
Oneonta, NY 13820
607-432-3400



Here we are, entering our 15th year of publication of the Contractor Bulletin. At this time we reflect on our evolving mission to provide you with timely and useful information as well as an occasional diversion in the hope that we've been successful.

We'd like to extend our sincere appreciation for your support and wish you success in your business, good health and happiness in 2013!

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year

from everyone at the Contractor Bulletin workshop
Otsego Ready Mix, Oneonta Block Company and Pickett Building Materials



At this Holiday time it seems more important than ever to count our blessings. It's the perfect time to give to your local charity...



25 River Street, Oneonta, NY
Tel: 607-432-5960
www.salvationarmyusa.org



**American
Red Cross**

Southern Tier Chapter
620 East Main Street, Endicott, NY 13760
www.redcross.org

Real Charity doesn't care if it's deductible or not.

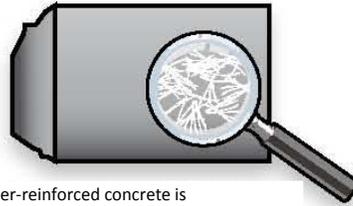


Otsego Ready Mix, Inc. Concrete Pumping & Placing



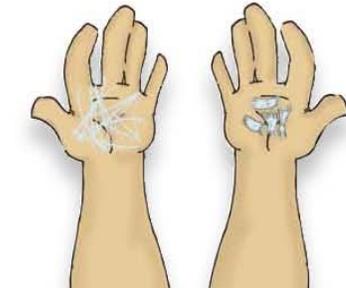
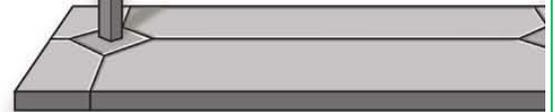
Fiber-Reinforced Concrete

Used appropriately, fibers can greatly improve the characteristics of concrete, although the value fibers bring has sometimes been exaggerated. Some fibers only work when the concrete is still soft (plastic), others can increase the tensile strength and toughness of hardened concrete.

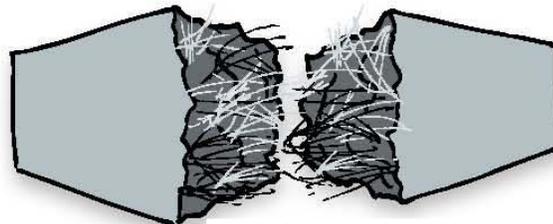


Fiber-reinforced concrete is usually described by the material the fiber is made from. Fibers that are used in concrete include synthetics (plastic), steel and glass.

Steel fibers are corrugated or have hooked ends to increase the bond to the hardened concrete. Steel fibers are often used in industrial floors and allow greater joint spacing (joints at column lines only) and thinner cross sections since they increase tensile strength, toughness, and hold cracks together. Synthetic macrofibers also have been used in slabs to hold together shrinkage cracks and eliminate the need for welded wire mesh.



Synthetic fibers are mostly commonly made from polypropylene, but also from nylon and other materials. Some polypropylene fibers are fibrillated, meaning many strands twisted together like a piece of rope (right hand); others are monofilaments (single strands). Synthetic microfibers are about 1 inch long; macro fibers are 2 inches long.



Synthetic fibers do not bond to the concrete and therefore pull out easily when the concrete fractures or cracks.

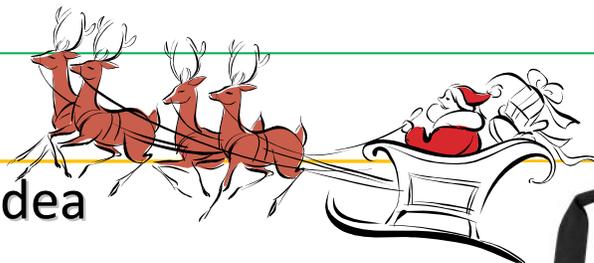
Low dosages of micro-synthetic fibers can reduce plastic shrinkage cracks (or crazing) in plastic concrete but cannot replace temperature and shrinkage reinforcement. Synthetic fibers also reduce bleeding in concrete and prevent segregation without affecting workability



Synthetic macrofibers and steel fibers provide some bending strength and reduce crack widths but are not used as the only reinforcement in structural members like beams or columns. Macrofibers are longer (about 2 inches) and are added at higher dosages and don't bunch up during mixing.



Concrete Construction | October 2012



A Great Gift Idea

Rockwell Sonicrafter

Oscillating tool 37 piece kit with accessories and storage bag.

The Rockwell Sonicrafter is a complete workshop in just one tool! The Sonicrafter from Rockwell can make precision plunge cuts, sand in tight spots, flush cut dowels and plugs, polish metals, strip paint and wallpaper, remove old window glazing and caulk, remove rust from tools and furniture, scrape dried adhesives, cut branches, even clean up graffiti. The Sonicrafter also easily cuts drywall, cement board, aluminum and plastic gutters and downspouts, conduit, copper pipe, even vinyl siding. The list is endless and the tool really is simple to use. You'll wonder how you ever did without it.



Available at Pickett's for **\$129.99**

SKU 9375718

All this is achieved by the unique high frequency oscillation of the tool head. It doesn't rotate or orbit, making it a very user-friendly tool. This Sonicrafter 37-piece kit has variable speed and comes with a hex key, circle cutter, straight cutter, scraper, sanding polishing pad, 30 sanding sheets and a carbide grit segment saw blade in a convenient carrying bag.

Window Selection

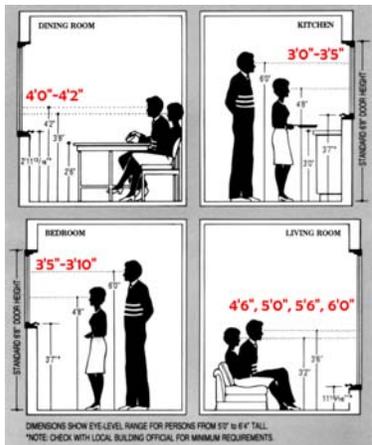
There are no hard and fast rules for the selection of windows but a careful understanding of just how they will make the connection between indoors and outdoors is very important. Selecting the design and type of window is necessary to achieve the architectural appearance you wish to accomplish.



Occasionally, combinations of designs are needed to accomplish necessary functions for rooms that vary in their use. However, there needs to be a similarity in the design or size to tie them together and to avoid a design/appearance unbalance.

Each room function may require special considerations, such as a kitchen window over a countertop. Operating/venting requires reaching across a counter area and is especially difficult for a shorter person. Selection of an easy operating type, such as a casement/awning should be considered.

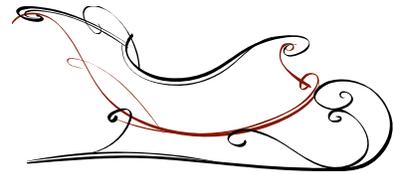
Window placement height is very important and the following is a good guide to aid in making a height selection.



Other considerations:

1. Location and size of windows whose orientation is to the south for maximum heat gain.
2. Western sun can be intense and glaring so controlling its affects needs to be considered.
3. Living and family rooms or areas where picturesque views may be enjoyed, may require lower window units, especially if the view is at a low elevation.
4. Areas with out-swinging windows, such as casements or awnings, could affect exterior traffic and may be a safety issue.
5. Based on ventilation, view and architectural balance are necessary factors in making effective decisions as how they will function for both on the interior and exterior of the new structure.

Sliding / swing entry door units and venting roof windows are also part of an overall system for providing ventilation, light, appearance, function, warmth and enjoyment for a comfortable home.



Market Report

Paul Barnhart



The lumber and panel markets remain strong for the season and tend to maintain a strong price level with increases precipitated by seemingly minimal influences.

In a somewhat typical manner, many commodities have announced January increases which will set the barometer for the first quarter of 2013. These include:

Polyiso Insulation	- 5%
Gypsum Board	- up to 30%
Fiberglass Insulation	- 8 - 12 %
Steel Studs	- 10%
Asphalt Shingle Roofing	- 10-14%

Given that most producers seem to have themselves strongly aligned with existing demand and the probability of only a gentle increase in construction business, expect prices to remain as such through the first quarter at least with already announced future increases likely kicking in by Spring.

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year

Paul



ICE Melt Products

Ice on sidewalks, driveways and parking lots can prove extremely hazardous. When the safety of pedestrian or vehicular traffic is threatened, it becomes necessary to use a chemical deicer. Damage to concrete is rarely caused by the ice melter that is used, but rather by the effect of the freeze / thaw cycle. Your risk of damage can be reduced by remembering a few key points:

- Use a lower temperature ice melter to minimize the freeze/thaw cycles
- Remove slush and broken ice as soon as possible
- Try to prevent water build up on the surface of concrete to reduce absorption
- Ensure the concrete is of high quality construction



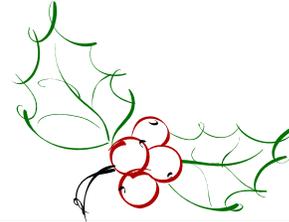
50# Halite Rock Salt

50RS

\$5.95 each

Buy a full pallet of 49 and pay only

\$4.95 each



50# Zero Ice

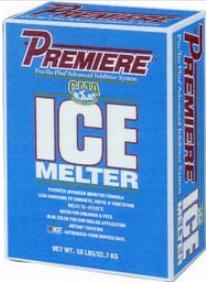
6090088

\$11.95 each

Buy a full pallet of 48 and pay only

\$10.99 each

Magnesium/Potassium/Sodium blend. Works fast to melt ice, snow and sleet. Melts to temperatures below 0°. Use on walkways, driveways and steps. Easy to see and apply aqua-tinted crystals. 3-way melting action. Contains Magnesium Chloride.



50# Premiere Ice Melter

PIM50

\$12.99 each

Buy a full pallet of 49 and pay only

\$11.99 each

Designed for commercial and residential customers concerned with protecting assets and vegetation.

- Effective to -8°F
- Contains vegetation enhancers and protectors
- Virtually non-corrosive to metal and concrete
- Safer for people, animals and vegetation*
- NSF approved, non-toxic

*When used as directed



Safe Step Ice Melt

6913180

\$7.99 / 8 lb shaker jug

8940991

\$9.99 / 20# bag

100% organic. All natural, salt-free. Safe for paws and skin. Non-toxic. Safe on lawns, shrubs and vegetation. Melts ice down to -15°F.



100 lb. capacity provides 17,500 sq. ft. coverage. Poly hopper and spreader plate resists corrosion. Acetal gear and 1/2" diameter axle. 10" x 4" pneumatic tire for easy operation. Steel flow control (no cables). 8' x 10' spread width. Spreader setting recommendations for multiple materials included.

3917556

\$149.99



Rate setting control high on handle for easy adjustment. Large pneumatic wheels. 80lb. high volume hopper. Fully assembled.

6290118

\$109.99



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