

# Contractor

Service & Industry

# Bulletin

January / February 2012



6459 State Highway 23, Oneonta, NY 13820-6550

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



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

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## Otsego Ready Mix, Inc.

### Plastic Shrinkage Cracking



#### What is Plastic Shrinkage Cracking?

Plastic shrinkage cracks appear on the surface of a placed concrete slab during a finishing operation or soon after. These cracks are usually parallel to each other and rarely intersect the perimeter of the slab.

Plastic shrinkage cracks rarely impair the strength of concrete floors and pavements; nevertheless, they are unsightly.

#### Why do Plastic Shrinkage Cracks Occur?

Plastic shrinkage cracks occur when the rate of evaporation of surface moisture exceeds the rate at which rising bleed water can replace it as the surface dries. If the concrete surface has started to set and has developed sufficient tensile strength, cracks do not form. However, if the surface dries before sufficient tensile strength develops, the tensile force in the surface layers will exceed the tensile strength and cracks will develop during the setting process. If the surface dries very rapidly, the concrete may still be plastic, and cracks do not develop at this time; but plastic cracks will surely form as soon as the concrete stiffens a little more.

#### How to Minimize Plastic Shrinkage Cracks

To reduce plastic shrinkage cracking, it is important to recognize ahead of time, before placement when weather conditions may occur that are conducive to plastic shrinkage cracking. Precautions can then be taken to minimize this occurrence. They are:

- a. Have proper manpower, equipment, and supplies on hand so that the concrete can be placed and finished promptly. If delays occur, cover the concrete with wet burlap, polyethylene sheeting or building paper between finishing operations.
- b. Start curing the concrete as soon as possible. Keep the surface continually moist for a minimum of 3 days.
- c. Thoroughly dampen a dry subgrade and form work.
- d. Consider using synthetic fibers to resist plastic shrinkage cracking.

# 4<sup>th</sup> Annual Showcase Presentation

The official kickoff to the 2012 Season!  
Join us for an evening full of information and product demonstrations.

We look forward to seeing you there!

Thursday, April 4

5-6 Social Hour - Cash Bar

6 p.m. Dinner on us / Trade show



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**MOTOR DESCRIPTION:** 2 HP, 3400 RPM, Overload Protection with Manual Reset, 115 Volt, 60 Hz, Heavy-Duty, Industrial Grade with Ball Bearings for Greater Durability

**STANDARD EQUIPMENT:** Pressure Switch with On/Off Lever, Regulator w/Air Line Pressure Gauge, 12 oz. Crankcase Pre-filled with Oil, 105/135 PSI Operating Pressure, Factory Tested, Safety Relief Valve

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# Landscape Report



# Boulder Wall

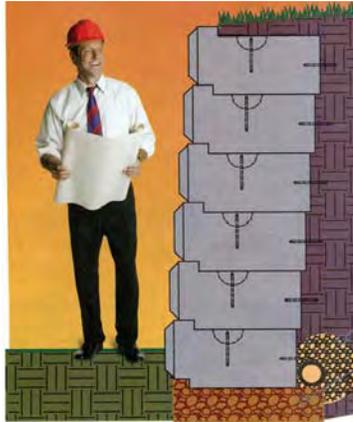


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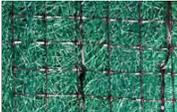
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## Market Report

Paul Barnhart



Even though this winter has been anything but typical, current markets in many ways reflect the typical mid-winter wait and see attitude that has been come the norm over the past couple of years. So much is riding on what ends up happening in the investment markets, national and international political events and the overall tenor of the global economy. The slightest ripple can be read as a tsunami at our heightened levels of anticipation.

Generally, the wood markets are at a level that could adjust up or down only slightly with most sources seeming to favor a slight trend upward that reflects the belief of a similar trend for the overall construction economy throughout the year.

The January gypsum increase has established a new price level which, if the manufacturers adhere to their plan, should stay the same for the year. Asphalt is anticipated to go up in March mostly from seasonal demands typical for the time of year. Metal products continue to inch upward and should rise an average of 5% through the beginning of April. Insulations have gone up in a typical mid-winter manner and should level off for the foreseeable future with poly-iso leading the way by 5-7%. For the time being, aluminum has stabilized but remains potentially volatile as does copper.

Oh, and did we mention that the groundhog saw his shadow?



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## Why Men Shouldn't Write Advice Columns

Dear John:

I hope you can help me. The other day I set off for work, leaving my husband in the house watching TV. My car stalled and then it broke down about a mile down the road so I had to walk back to get my husband's help.

When I got home, I could not believe my eyes; he was in our bedroom with

the neighbor's 20-year-old daughter. I am 32 and my husband is 34. We have been married for ten years. When I confronted him, he broke down and admitted they'd been having an affair for the past six months. He won't go to counseling and I'm afraid I am a wreck and need advice urgently. Can you help me please?

Sincerely, Sheila

Dear Sheila,

A car stalling after being driven a short distance can be caused by a variety of faults. Start by checking that there is no debris in the fuel line. If it is clear, check the vacuum pipe and the hoses on the intake manifold and also check all grounding wires. If none of these approaches solves the problem, it could be the fuel pump. I hope this helps,

John



Download this, as well as past issues from our websites at [www.pickettbuildingmaterials.com](http://www.pickettbuildingmaterials.com) or [www.oneontablock.com](http://www.oneontablock.com)



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