

Contractor

Service & Industry

Bulletin

March 2011



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

We're remodeling!



Photo by Tom Ballard

Pickett's is in the process of remodeling which will result in over 500 feet of additional shelf space in the store. We're also remerchandising to make shopping quicker and easier. And to create a better flow and make us more efficient our offices are being updated and reorganized. Stop in soon to see what we've been up to.



Photos by Tom Ballard

Market Report

Paul Barnhart



For the most part, market conditions have remained the same. Lumber remains mostly flat with occasional spikes fueled by even the slightest sign of demand domestically or even more so abroad.

Steel based materials continue their upward climb as a basic increase in price from the mills is passed on through the fabricators. Clark Dietrich will increase steel studs 10% again in early April and Metal Sales continues to increase roofing and sidewall steel along a similar monthly routine.

The drywall increase originally posted for last November has finally been implemented as of early March by all major manufacturers. Escalation of key raw materials will produce a vinyl siding price increase in early April.

Transportation cost increases driven by the advancing price of diesel fuel will continue to place pressures on our already fragile marketplace.

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Oneonta Block Co.

Q: Why are corrugated wall ties permitted in brick veneer walls with wood stud back-ups, but not in brick veneer walls with steel stud backup walls?

A: Metal anchors are used in masonry veneer walls to transfer lateral loads from the veneer to the backup wall. In most areas of the country, design wind loads are greater than design seismic loads. Corrugated anchors generally have lower capacity than other types of masonry veneer anchors. However, the reason that they are permitted for wood stud backups and not for steel stud backups is related more to historical usage than it is to engineering. Corrugated wall anchors have been used for decades with limited failures.

However, engineering calculations often show that these anchors do not have sufficient capacity without excessive movement. Their low rate of failure is probably related to the fact that these systems are typically used in residential construction. Exterior brick veneers in residences often have many corners and offsets that strengthen the veneer. As a result, the masonry veneer in many cases can safely handle wind loads without significant contribution from the backup wall.

Although corrugated anchors are allowed for wood frame structures, the ultimate responsibility regarding the appropriate anchor belongs with the designer or contractor.

Consider the application before using corrugated anchors. If the residence has large, tall walls with very few corners or offset areas that could stiffen the wall, or if the residence is located in an open area, consider engineering wall anchors to resist lateral load rather than relying on prescriptive code requirements. Consider using air spaces wider than one inch, since wider air spaces reduce the risk of mortar bridges; with wider air spaces, corrugated anchors are not permitted.

Masonry Construction | January 2011 | Norbert V. Krogstad



March 13 marked the beginning of Daylight Savings Time

It's an hour earlier and darker in the morning while kids are waiting for school buses.

Please take extra caution while driving to work.

**School's Open
Please Drive Carefully!**

Don't be Scammed by Fake IRS Communications

The IRS receives thousands of reports each year from taxpayers who receive suspicious emails, phone calls, faxes or notices claiming to be from the Internal Revenue Service. Many of these scams fraudulently use the Internal Revenue Service name or logo as a lure to make the communication more authentic and enticing. The goal of these scams – known as phishing – is to trick you into revealing personal and financial information. The scammers can then use that information – like your Social Security number, bank account or credit card numbers – to commit identity theft or steal your money.

Here are five things the IRS wants you to know about phishing scams:

1. The IRS doesn't ask for detailed personal and financial information like PIN numbers, passwords or similar secret access information for credit card, bank or other financial accounts.
2. The IRS does not initiate taxpayer communications through e-mail and won't send a message about your tax account. If you receive an e-mail from someone claiming to be the IRS or directing you to an IRS site:
 - Do not reply to the message.
 - Do not open any attachments. Attachments may contain malicious code that will infect your computer.
 - Do not click on any links. If you clicked on links in a suspicious e-mail or phishing website and entered confidential information, visit the IRS website and enter the search term 'identity theft' for more information and resources to help.
3. The address of the official IRS website is <http://www.irs.gov>. Do not be confused or misled by sites claiming to be the IRS but ending in .com, .net, .org or other designations instead of .gov. If you discover a website that claims to be the IRS but you suspect it is bogus, do not provide any personal information on the suspicious site and report it to the IRS.
4. If you receive a phone call, fax or letter in the mail from an individual claiming to be from the IRS but you suspect they are not an IRS employee, contact the IRS at 1-800-829-1040 to determine if the IRS has a legitimate need to contact you. Report any bogus correspondence.
5. You can help shut down these schemes and prevent others from being victimized. Details on how to report specific types of scams and what to do if you've been victimized are available at <http://www.irs.gov>, keyword "phishing."



Department of the Treasury
Internal Revenue Service



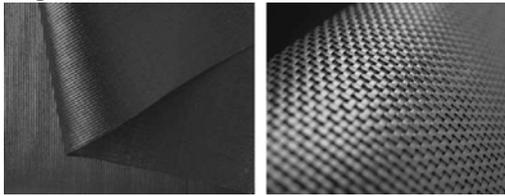
Landscape Report Geotextiles in Interlocking Concrete Pavement Applications

Geotextiles are a subset of a much larger group of products used in site and pavement construction called geosynthetics. These materials have several desirable characteristics for building on, in or with aggregates and soils. The key is choosing the geosynthetic material with characteristics most desirable for the application.

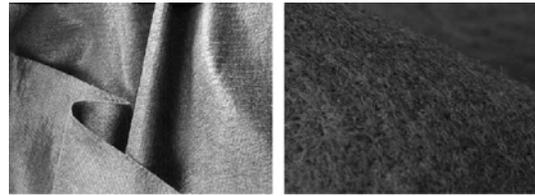
As a type of geosynthetic materials, geotextiles can contribute to the long term structural performance of interlocking concrete pavement (ICP) and this should be sufficient reason to include them in most ICP projects. For interlocking concrete pavements applications, geotextiles have several functions such as:

- **Separation**—a flexible material between dissimilar materials so that the integrity & function of both remain intact or improved.
- **Reinforcement**—the improvement of a total system’s strength created by the introduction of a geosynthetic into a soil.
- **Filtration**—allows the flow of liquid, without the undesired movement or loss of soil, across the plane of the geosynthetic.

Geotextiles are typically manufactured from polypropylene or polyester and are grouped by their manufacturing method, woven and non-woven. **Geotextiles should not be confused with landscaping fabric used around trees, shrubs and flowers to block weed growth. Landscape fabric is not designed to be placed under aggregate bases. It is typically not produced to the quality standards and strength of a geotextile.**



Woven geotextile: regular view and enlarged view



Non-woven geotextile: regular view and enlarged view

Woven geotextiles are made by weaving individual ribbons, fibers or multiple fibers to create a thin sheet. Woven geotextiles typically have higher strengths with lower deformation and exhibit greater durability. ICPI recommends woven geotextiles in pavements over clay or silt soils. Woven geotextile provides adequate separation while being fairly easy to cut and spread out on the soil sub grade.

Nonwoven geotextiles are made by randomly orienting fibers in a layer and bonding or needle-punching them so they form a thin sheet-like material. Nonwoven geotextiles typically provide great filtration characteristics but easily stretch when loads are applied.

The primary benefit of geotextiles in ICP is maintaining the integrity of the compacted aggregate base which will help extend pavement life and reduce the progress of rutting. For ICP and PICP, geotextiles do not provide any reason to reduce the aggregate base or sub base thickness. Geotextiles add roughly \$1 per square yard or square meter to the project budget. This is **inexpensive insurance.**



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Dramatically Alters Fall Protection Requirements for Residential Construction Workers

OSHA announced a significant change in the level of fall protection required for residential construction workers, emphasizing the need to protect residential roofers. By withdrawing a 1995 special directive that allowed residential builders to bypass fall protection requirements, these same builders must now comply with OSHA Standard 29 CFR 1956.501(b)(13).

Assistant Secretary of Labor for OSHA, Dr. David Michaels, addressed the concerns, "Fatalities from falls are the number one cause of workplace deaths in construction. We cannot tolerate workers getting killed in residential construction when effective means are readily available to prevent those deaths. Almost every week, we see a worker killed from falling off a residential roof. We can stop these fatalities, and we must."

According to the announcement, construction and roofing companies until June 16, 2011 to comply with the new directive. To assist companies in meeting the new requirements, OSHA has published a Residential Fall Protection page on its website.

Going forward, residential construction employers will be expected to employ the following safeguards:

- Employees working six (6) feet or more above lower levels must be protected by conventional fall protection methods listed in 1926.501(b)(13) (i.e., guardrail systems, safety net systems, or personal fall arrest systems) or alternative fall protection measures allowed by other provisions of 29 CFR 1926.501(b) for particular types of work.
- An example of an alternative fall protection measure allowed under 1926.501(b) is the use of warning lines and safety monitoring systems during the performance of roofing work on low-sloped roofs. (4 in 12 pitch or less). (See 1926.501(b)(10)).
- OSHA allows the use of an effective fall restraint system in lieu of a personal fall arrest system. To be effective, a fall restraint system must be rigged to prevent a worker from reaching a fall hazard and falling over the edge. A fall restraint system may consist of a full body harness or body belt that is connected to an anchor point at the center of a roof by a lanyard of a length that will not allow a worker to physically reach the edge of the roof.
- When the employer can demonstrate that it is infeasible or creates a greater hazard to use required fall protection systems, a qualified person must develop a written site-specific fall protection plan in accordance with 1926.502(k) that, among other things, specifies the alternative fall protection methods that will be used to protect workers.



Standard 29 CFR 1956.501(b)(13)

"Residential construction." Each employee engaged in residential construction activities 6 feet (1.8 m) or more above lower levels shall be protected by guardrail systems, safety net system, or personal fall arrest system unless another provision in paragraph (b) of this section provides for an alternative fall protection measure. Exception: When the employer can demonstrate that it is infeasible or creates a greater hazard to use these systems, the employer shall develop and implement a fall protection plan which meets the requirements of paragraph (k) of 1926.502.

Note: There is a presumption that it is feasible and will not create a greater hazard to implement at least one of the above-listed fall protection systems. Accordingly, the employer has the burden of establishing that it is appropriate to implement a fall protection plan which complies with 1926.502(k) for a particular workplace situation, in lieu of implementing any of those systems.

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