Contractor Service & Industry Bulletin

September 2012

Pickett Building Materials | Oneonta Block Company
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

Market Report

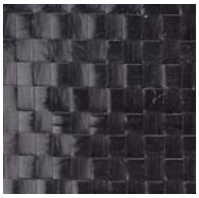
Paul Barnhart

The plodding pace of business has served to maintain a basically flat price trend in most markets since the last advance. While OSB spiked significantly last month, it has held as well, even though at that elevated price. The inclination for steel items to increase has been somewhat tempered as well in this pre-election, wait and see environment. The absence of wide spread effects of extreme weather has assisted also, particularly when compared to last year's hurricane season. Expect prices to stay steady through the fall with anticipation of already announced increases coming in several commodities as of January.

Landscape Report

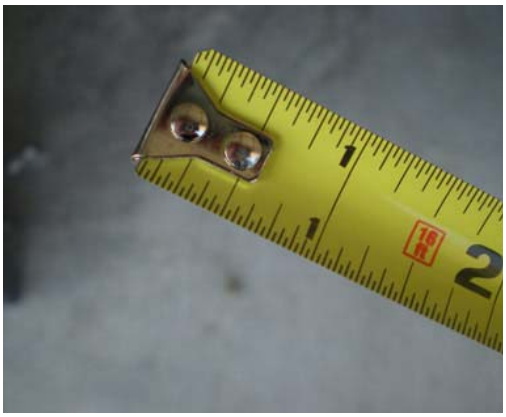
Landscape Fabric

We've ordered a truckload and pass the savings on to you.

			Regular Price	Discount Price
	W12432C	**Woven Slit Film** 4 oz 12.5' x 432' Soil Stabilization	$350	**$315**
	NW12360C	**Non Woven** 4 oz 12.5' x 360' Drainage Fabric	$335	**$265**

Prices good while supplies last. Inventory is available in our Port Crane location. Orders placed from our Oneonta location may incur an additional lead time.

FYI: Why Tape Measure Claws Move Around



This is a question that the folks at Stanley hear all the time: why does the claw — you know, the little catch at the end of your tape measure — move back and forth? Is it just poorly attached? The short answer: no, the loose claw is no accident of manufacture. **It's loose *on purpose*.**

Actually, the claw moves back and forth slightly to allow you to measure both the length of an item inside the claw and an item outside the claw. To do this, the claw must slide back and forth by a small amount — exactly the same distance as the width of the claw. That way when you, for example, push the end of the measure against a wall, the claw slides in and renders an accurate measurement *to the wall*. When you catch the claw on the end of a stud and pull to measure a cut, the claw slides out and again you get an accurate measurement to the end of the board.

And if the claw is firmly attached and doesn't move? Better check to see whether the tape's calibrated inside or outside the claw before you measure or you could end up with an extra (or worse short) a 1/16" or so.

Toolmonger.com | By Chuck Cage | June 26, 2009

Home Inspection Nightmares

Brace yourself!
This is from a house inspected in Phoenix, Ariz. The entire house had "home-made" gussets made from plywood rectangles. Metal triangles might have strengthened those joints a little better.

Indoor Pool
The disclosure on this Civil War-era home said the roof didn't leak. Not only was a kiddie pool catching water from the roof leak, but an elaborate gutter had been fabricated from aluminum coil stock.

Looks Like a Yeti Took a Bite
"Mechanical contractors and power saws are sometimes a dangerous combination. What's worse, this butchering of the rafters was not even needed to install the unit or ducts. They were cut 'just in case.'"

Check out www.thisoldhouse.com for more Home Inspection Nightmares

Driving without a Cell Phone

The U.S. Department of Transportation (DOT) has set January 3, 2012, as the effective date of a new hand-held cell-phone ban for commercial motor vehicle (CMV) drivers. The new rule was published in the Federal Register on December 2, 2011.

What does it prohibit? The new rule says CMV drivers cannot "use a hand-held mobile telephone" while driving a CMV.

Use of a hand-held mobile telephone means:
1. Using at least one hand to hold a mobile telephone to conduct a voice communication;
2. Dialing or answering a mobile telephone by pressing more than a single button, or
3. Reaching for a mobile telephone in a manner that requires a driver to maneuver so that he or she is no longer in a seated driving position or restrained by a seat belt.

Who does it affect? For now, the rule applies to:
- All interstate commercial motor vehicle drivers. This includes both CDL and non-CDL drivers; and
- All intrastate CMV drivers hauling a placarded amount of hazardous materials.

In the future, it is expected that the states will adopt a similar provision for all other in-state CMV drivers. States are given three years to adopt rules that are similar or identical to the federal standards.

What about "push to talk"? Drivers are allowed to use push-to-talk mobile communications equipment while driving as long as the driver does not reach for, dial, or hold the actual mobile phone in his/her hand while driving and the driver is able to touch the button needed to operate the push-to-talk feature from the normal seated driving position.

Can I use my phone at a stop light? No, CMV drivers cannot use hand-held phones while temporarily stopped due to traffic, a traffic control device, or other momentary delays.

When can I use a hand-held phone?
Hand-held cell-phone use is allowed if you move the vehicle to the side of, or off, the highway and stop in a safe location. Hand-held cell-phone use is also allowed "when necessary to communicate with law enforcement officials or other emergency services."

What are the penalties?
Fines and/or disqualification. Drivers who violate the new ban will face federal civil penalties of up to $2,750 for each offense and disqualification for multiple offenses. Violating a state law on hand-held cell-phone use is considered a "serious traffic violation" under the new rule, and a second conviction of any serious traffic violation in 3 years will result in disqualification for 60 days, or 120 days after three convictions. Companies that allow their drivers to violate the ban face penalties of up to $11,000 for each violation.

Transportation, Safety, Human Resources Compliance | J. J. Keller & Associates

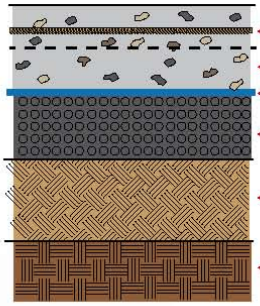
Otsego Ready Mix, Inc.
Concrete Pumping and Placing

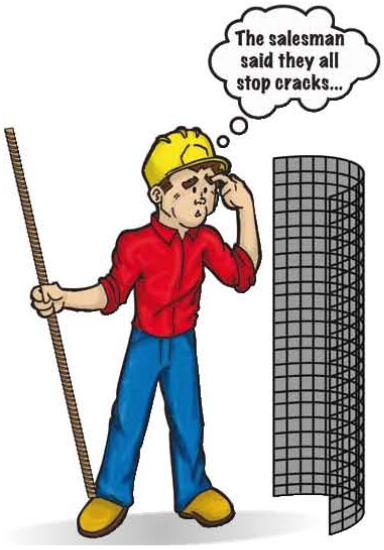
Slab Reinforcement

Steel in concrete slabs on ground is not intended to be structural, only to hold cracks closed tightly. For that reason, slabs are considered unreinforced, even though most will have some 'temperature' reinforcement.

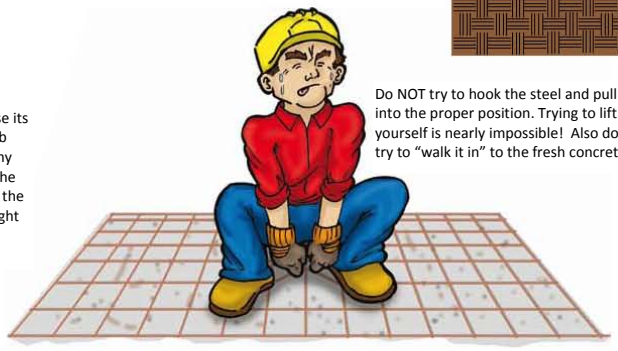
Certification
The American Concrete Institute (ACI) certifies individuals as Flatwork Finishers. Some owners of buildings have started requiring certified finishers on their projects. Contact ACI for more information.

With structural concrete, the steel is near the bottom of the cross section. But in a slab on ground, the reinforcement should be at or above the mid-depth of the slab—ideally at 1/3 depth or 2 inches below the surface. Slabs shrink more at the top than at the bottom, meaning that the cracks are usually wider at the top, so that's where to locate the reinforcement.





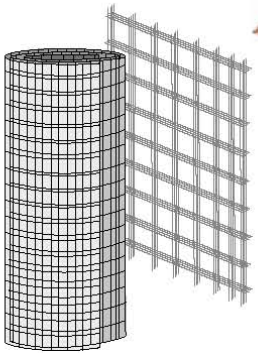
Steel reinforcement in concrete slabs on ground does not increase the flexural strength of the slab and does not increase its ability to carry loads. The purpose of slab reinforcement is only to hold together any shrinkage cracks that develop between the joints. Reinforcement actually increases the number of cracks but keeps the cracks tight so the slab can continue to perform as intended.

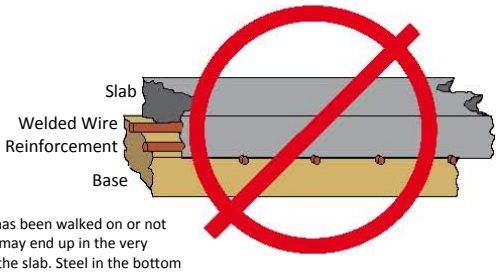


Do NOT try to hook the steel and pull it up into the proper position. Trying to lift yourself is nearly impossible! Also do not try to "walk it in" to the fresh concrete.

Since the vertical position of the steel is important, it must be supported during concrete placement. Use chairs (plastic or steel) to support the steel. The supports should be spaced so that foot traffic will not move the reinforcement out of position. A recent article by Joe Neuber, Neuber Concrete Construction, showed that even with slab bolsters at 1 foot apart most wire would not stay in position under workers' feet.

Use individual reinforcing bars (like #3 rebar at 18"OC) or sheets of wire mesh rather than rolls. The rolls of WWR are nearly impossible to get flat enough to position properly. Some contractors have recommended using heavier wire with wider spacing so workers can step through the mesh instead of trying walk on top—that may be possible with rebar but most mesh doesn't have wire spaced far enough apart to actually step through. Steel may or may not continue through the joints—check the plans to make sure.





Steel that has been walked on or not supported may end up in the very bottom of the slab. Steel in the bottom of the slab is useless.

Simplified Measurements

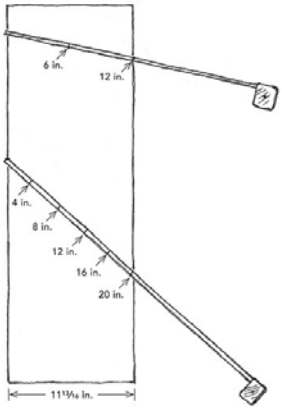
Find a Center or Divide into Equal Divisions

David Kalin of Kaneohe, Hawaii submitted these tips for the Fine Homebuilding Magazine, September 2011 issue.

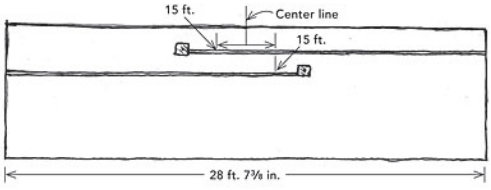
It's a lot easier to divide 12 in half than 11 13/16. Here's a method that makes it easy to divide the more complicated number.

Finding The Center

Don't feel like finding the center of 11 13/16"? Simply angle the tape down until you have an easier number to cut in half, like 12. How about dividing 11 13/16" into five equal divisions? Simply angle your tape until you find a number easily divided by five, like 20.



Easy Division



To find the center of a long wall, pull your tape a little more or less than halfway. Make a mark, and pull the same distance from the other side. Now just measure between the two closer points.

oops!

We have Quality Lincoln Double Hung Replacement Units available at low prices
Someone else's oops! means savings for you!

Description and Features:
- Exterior: Bronze Aluminum Clad
- Low-E
- 4 9/16" Jamb
- Primed Interior
- Coppertone Hardware
- Bronze Screens

The following sizes are available:

WP21	6 each	31 3/8" x 57 ¾" Opening Size
WP19	9 each	31 3/8" x 53 ¾" Opening Size
WP20	2 each	28" x 53 ½" Opening Size

Originally priced at $250 each – **Now ONLY $40**
(only while supplies last)

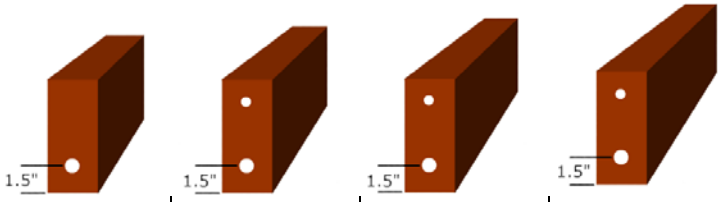
Purchase the entire lot and save an extra 15% off already reduced prices or **MAKE AN OFFER**

Oneonta Block Company

Concrete Lintels - In stock at Pickett Building Materials / Oneonta Block Company

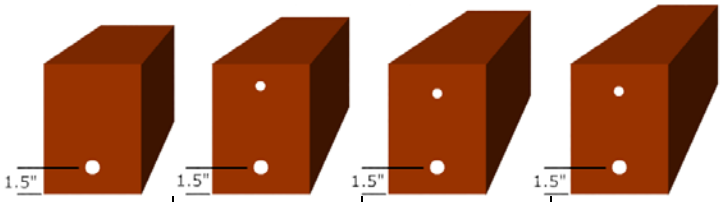
Rebar Schedule

4" x 8" in 42", 48", 56", 64", 72", 84", 96", 112", 144"
Approximate weight per linear foot is 28 lbs.



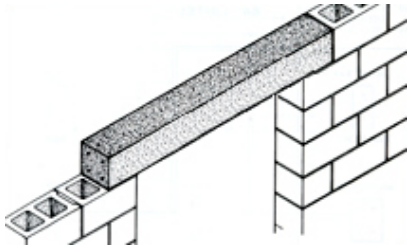
30" –48"	52" – 88"	90" -96"	102" – 144"
#3 Bottom	#3 Top #3 Bottom	#3 Top #4 Bottom	#3 Top #5 Bottom

6" x 8" in 42", 48", 56", 64", 72", 84", 96"
Approximate weight per linear foot is 41 lbs.



30" –48"	52" – 88"	90" -96"	102" – 144"
#3 Bottom	#3 Top #3 Bottom	#3 Top #4 Bottom	#3 Top #5 Bottom

The purpose of rebar in concrete lintels is to provide flexure strength and crack control. Depending on the size of the lintel, one or two bars are installed. Each bar is placed at least one and a half inches from the bottom of the lintel.



When the lintel is supporting a load, the bottom of the lintel flexes downward causing tension in the bottom member of the lintel. Since concrete has very little tensile strength, steel reinforcement is added to enhance the ability of concrete in carrying these tensile forces. Steel also plays an important part in controlling cracks. Cracks develop in inelastic materials. Concrete is elastic only under loads of short duration. Loads of long duration cause the concrete to become inelastic and possibly develop hairline cracks. Hairline cracks are common in the bottom portion of concrete lintels under long-term load conditions. Hairline cracks, however, do not jeopardize the integrity of the lintel.

The bearing length should be 8" on both sides of the masonry opening, for a total of 16". Ex.: A 128" opening requires a 144" lintel.

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