

in this issue

- Slab Edge Forming pg 1
- Waler Tips pg 2
- Starting Over..... pg 3
- Super Truck..... pg 4
- Ask Western Forms..... pg 5
- Escoja su Idioma..... pg 6

The FORUM is published quarterly by Western Forms, Inc.

To add to or remove your name from our mailing list, update your contact information, or request additional copies, please call 800-821-3870.

We welcome your ideas, suggestions, and comments concerning this publication. Please mail your contribution to:
Western Forms, Inc.
Attn: Lisa Crawford
6200 Equitable Road
Kansas City, MO 64120



Sure, we can tell you about a product all we want, but isn't it better to see it for yourself? We think so and that's why Western Forms® is now offering new **Post-Tension Slab Forming Demonstrations!** Starting July 2005, we'll be hosting these demos around the country to show you what you can really expect from a Western Forms Post-Tension Slab Forming System.

Tired of using wood to form your slabs? Say goodbye to old-fashioned lumber and start achieving higher performance with aluminum. With a patented system for nailing the anchors into the aluminum, you never have to worry about wood forms again.

Better yet, this innovative system has proven very effective in the placement of the tendons or cables used in tensioning foundation slabs as well. The aluminum forms can be adequately braced to prevent movement during concrete placement, due to a design of sufficient strength and size allowing secure attachment of both the dead and stressing end anchorages.

Recently, Western Forms took its success from field-testing in Phoenix and began the first demonstrations of the formwork in the Las Vegas area. What did we find out?

Old (Wood) Method

When using wood, a crew member has to mark the edge form for the center of each tendon based on the location found on the foundation design drawings. Holes have to be drilled where the stressing end anchors are to be placed based on the vertical dimension shown in the engineer's details. The size of the hole should be adequate to receive the tip of the larger diameter side



of the pocket former. The center of the anchorage should be located 4 inches (100 mm) below the concrete surface.

Wood forms will need to be purchased over and over. Typically they will have only five reuses. Why so few? Not only do you need to replace the wood because of delaminating and peeling, but the used panels will affect productivity because the wood doesn't stay straight. Edge boards will require the time and cost involved with placing more kickers and splices to keep them straight.

New (Aluminum) Method

Western Forms panels are predrilled and are placed at 9 inches from any corner. (Minimum requirements: Tendons should not be located closer than 6 inches (150 mm) from any slab corner.) The anchors are nailed through these holes at wire-ribbed locations. These wire ribs bite in and grip the nails securely.

The predrilled holes are 4 inches from the top of the formwork and will meet the recommended vertical placement of most



WANTED: YOUR USED FORMS

Do you have a panel, or even an entire set, that you don't use? We pay CASH for used forms! Call Nelson Travis at 800-821-3870 to trade in, trade up, or just make a little extra money.

STORY TELLERS

Do you have a story to tell? The FORUM is always looking for new project articles and yours could be next. Simply be willing to share some highlights and photos of your projects and we'll take care of the rest. Contact Western Forms by mailing back a response card (attached to this issue); calling 800-821-3870, ext. 3371; sending an email to info@westernforms.com; or by just telling your Regional Manager.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Don't miss your chance to explore Western Forms in person this year! Visit the Resources section online at www.westernforms.com for show & event dates. Plus, be sure to call about Post-Tension Slab Forming demonstrations (see article at right)!

Working Walers

Introducing an improved Waler Bracket, plus tips for top performance

Available starting in July 2005, Western Forms® introduces the improved **Standard Waler Bracket** - improved design; improved performance.

Added Strength

A new material, Ductil Iron, offers added strength and longevity over the former Grey Iron construction. You'll notice the difference with rigid construction that doesn't bend.

Improved Alignment

The enhanced design allows the Standard Waler Bracket to line up better with its counterpart, the PinLock™ Waler Bracket (introduced in the Spring 2005 issue of the FORUM).

Rounded Edges

Increase your job site safety with the addition of rounded edges.

Recessed Saddle

A recessed area makes your job easier by helping to strip the board.

For more information on this, or any Western Forms product, please contact your local distributor or representative, send an email to info@westernforms.com or call toll-free 800-821-3870.

Now that you've got your new waler brackets, how can you make sure you prepare for top performance and use them to their full advantage?

- Keep standard and PinLock walers in separate buckets to save time and reduce errors.
- Paint your waler brackets bright orange or yellow so they don't get lost in the dirt.

- Train all crew members on proper usage, placement, and removal techniques.
- Good waler practices minimize the need for extra bracing and the potential for injury or property damage.

Follow these Top 5 Tips to help your walers achieve straight walls:

1. Use Enough Brackets

Place waler brackets at every joint in your wall. Fillers under 5 inches do not require an additional bracket.

2. Lock In Your Splice Board

When splicing waler boards together mid-wall, place a third board - the splice board - on top. The splice board should be long enough to reach two brackets on either side of the splice.

3. Keep Your Corners Sharp

Place the waler to the outside of your 90° corners. Be sure to place a bracket at the corner to keep it sharp.

4. Walers Are NOT Scaffolds

Walers are not designed or intended as a safe working platform. Improper use of walers as a walking platform may subject the user and others to serious bodily injury or property damage.

5. Look for T-Walls

Always waler opposite T-walls. You need to catch at least two panel joints on either side of the T.



The improved Standard Waler Brackets are stronger for enhanced performance.



2x4 & 2x6 shown. 2x8 available late summer 2005.

Failure to follow these instructions may invalidate otherwise applicable warranties and may subject the user to serious bodily injury or property damage. Please contact Western Forms with any questions concerning the safe use of Western Forms products or to obtain training for your employees.

Making the Move

Starting over in a new area

Ferrall Burgett, owner of Olympic Foundations, isn't new to the poured concrete industry, but he is new to the Pacific Time Zone.

For 13 years, Burgett made his home in Iowa, starting a company called FB Forming in 1992. Recently, he decided to make a change and head west; all the way to the Olympic Peninsula of Washington. But what to do for a business? Start a new one, of course.

Backed by his experience and expertise, plus new Western Forms® Flagship® panels, Olympic Foundations had everything it needed to be a success. It just had to get the word out.

With the creative help of the Western Forms Marketing Department, Ferrall produced a self-mailing brochure describing his capabilities and what sets him apart from the competition: his aluminum forms.

"A lot of contractors here are still using wood forms," says Ferrall. "The builders are used to having to wait weeks before a foundation is ready. With my forms, I can offer them a finished product in just a few days. I

The inside



wanted my marketing piece to let them know about my quick cycle times and the high quality of my walls."

Ferrall gets his brochures out by mailing some to names he finds in the county Building Permit Records, sending some to additional builder prospects, and handing out others at local Home Builders Association meetings.

"I'm getting calls from people that have just seen the brochure and want to know more about me and what Olympic Foundations can do for them," says Ferrall. "The piece was a simple, yet effective way to get recognition in my new market."

You don't have to move to take advantage of a mail piece or other coop advertising from Western Forms! For more information on advertising and marketing services, call Lisa Crawford at 800-821-3870.

Forming on the Edge

Continued from page 1

slab foundations. Western Forms' sthd and mas wire clips fasten Simpson anchors to the formwork without nailing or screwing them to the aluminum forms. By inverting the form, you can adjust for the drop in the garage area.

The forms set easily with Card wedges that securely lock on 3/4- 1/2 inch steel stakes. Level is quickly attained by an easy tap of the Card wedge enclosing

the stake thru the form. Adjustable Turnbuckle kickers set quickly and keep the forms in the proper alignment. Forms are quickly set up for plumbing to be dug and placed. With fillers and corners it is easy to do square pop outs.

Corners are set quickly and securely with Pinlock™, pins and wedges.

Aluminum forms are dependable, have a faster cycle time, and offer you a better finish with a straighter edge for a higher quality product. Over time, aluminum form panels cost you less while holding their value. Your system becomes an investment in your

company's future, not simply an expense. Spend time on more projects instead of wasting it purchasing and cutting wood forms year after year.

Western Forms Post-Tension Slab Edge Forms come in standard lengths of 1'-10' in 1' increments. 1" increments

for 36" and under are also available. Form heights are available in 4", 8", and 12".

For more information on attending or hosting a Post-Tension Slab Forming Demonstration, please contact Roman Brewka or PT Ward at 800-821-3870.



Super Truck

Who said cost reductions had to be boring?

Gene and Gina Harlan, along with their children Mitchell & Haley, started small with just a few form panels and watched their business grow from there. One of the biggest contributors to their success is a watchful eye on expenses.

Using the right equipment for the job has always been a major concentration for their cost reductions. This initially

included switching from their original wood forms to a Western Forms aluminum forming system.

With Flagship® Elite panels, they can take advantage of attached hardware, gaskets, and lightweight forms. Other cost reduction and operations improvements have focused on their invoicing processes and trying to reduce the risk of running out of consumables.

A new challenge recently gave Gene the opportunity to be creative. When faced with replacing yet another one-ton 4 door truck at a cost of \$35,000, Gene vowed to find another option. He discovered that with

the rigors of a wall truck, the one-ton is continually overloaded, either from pulling a too-heavy load, or pulling a boom truck from a muddy site. This wear meant it must be replaced frequently and has no trade in value.

Gene looked to a heavier truck version and then built a truck that can't be overloaded. It has the ballast to pull out a stuck skid loader and won't need to be replaced for years to

come.

The new truck also addressed another concern: continually running out of materials - an expense Gene wanted

to eliminate. Now Gene travels with 100 gallons of form release in a dispensing tank, carries 50 bundles of 8" ties (for a better ride), 1000 pins and wedges under the back seat, and 20 boxes of anchor bolts, plus the standard equipment like pumps, saws, generators, and tools!



With his new truck, Gene has everything he needs.

Ask Western

Our experts weigh in with their solutions to your challenges

I bought a set of used Vertex® forms from Western Forms, and seem to have most of the critical idiosyncrasies figured out except for one: I can't figure out how to eliminate the bug holes and air pockets.

I've tried using a Wacker vibrator (1 3/4" head), a Makita vibrator (1" head), 2x2 wood rod, and a 1 1/2" PVC rod. The results have varied somewhat, but I can't seem to find a common pattern that really tells me what I need to do.

I'm using Blue Ribbon form oil, 5 1/2 bag mix, and I'd call the slump around 5" to 6", air is about 6%. Fly ash is not available from this ready-mix supplier, and I have not used water reducer/plasticizer.

Crosby Allen, Wyoming

Jon Hummel, Product Manager

Air entrainment needs to be @ 3%. Use a Wand Vibrator every three ft., and go 4ft. deep. The pH levels need to be no greater than 6-7. The pH levels can escalate due to digging deep for stone, not just recycled water. Use a 3 1/2 inch hose and bring it up from the footer to eliminate separation and control boom of concrete.

Doug Bonar, Regional Manager:

I would first look at what the placement method is. It appears too much air is being entrained in

the placement of the concrete. If a pump is used, then use a 3" reducer. The reducer would be on the end of a 4" hose. If you're pouring out of the truck, use an elephant trunk to try and reduce the amount of free fall which entrains air into the mix.

In using an elephant trunk, you can clamp the end to reduce the size or kink the trunk slightly to slow down and reduce the flow.

When pouring directly out of a chute place a shovel/splash shield/board directly under the chute to prevent free fall.

Using a water reducer and coarse sand may help.

Air can also be forced to the outside of the wall with over vibration, so when you vibrate go in and pull out quickly.

Got a question for the FORUM? Send your submission, name, and phone number to: Western Forms FORUM, Attn: Ask Western Forms, 6200 Equitable Road, Kansas City, MO 64120.

Escoja su Idioma

Información en Español disponible/Spanish materials available

Western Forms® ofrece su información de mercadeo y soporte técnico en Español.

Los siguientes temas están ya disponibles:

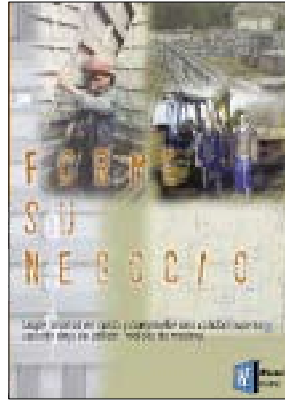
Forme su Negocio – ventajas de las cimbras de aluminio en comparación con las de madera.

La Guía para Contratistas para el Colado de Concreto en el Sitio de Obra – beneficios de concreto vaciado enfatizando su comparación con paredes de bloques.

Cuadro de Aplicación del Sistema – recientemente publicada la tabla de las diferentes características del sistema tanto en Español como en Inglés.

Folleto del Sistema de Cimbras – ofrece una detallada comparación de los diferentes grupos de cimbras de Western Forms.

Para recibir esta información en Español o Inglés llame al teléfono 1-800-821-3870 o contacte al Gerente Regional de su área.



Western Forms® now offers many of its most popular marketing and support materials in Spanish.

The following titles are currently available:

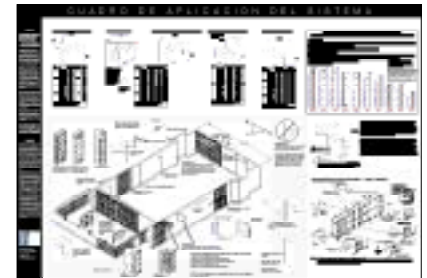
Form Your Business - addresses the advantages of aluminum forming systems over wood forms

A Contractor's Guide to Poured-In-Place Concrete Walls - discusses the benefits of poured concrete, with an emphasis on comparing to block walls

System Application Chart - recently released wall chart features Spanish on one side and English on the other

Forming System Brochure - offers an in-depth comparison of the different Western Forms forming families

To receive these materials in Spanish or English, contact 800-821-3870 or your Regional Manager.



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