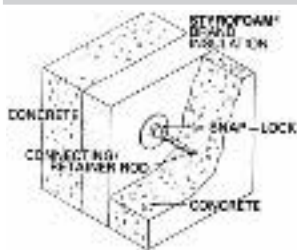


Hidden Foundation Insulation

by Clayton DeKorne

The Journal's pick of curious, interesting and useful products.



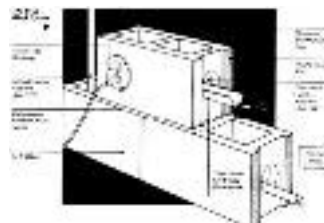
New connectors let you bury rigid foam insulation between the two faces of a concrete foundation wall. Because they are made with non-conductive material, connectors used in the Thermomass Building System do not lower the R-value of the insulation. The high-strength connectors (made of non-corrosive vinyl, epoxy, and fiberglass) are inserted into extruded polystyrene panels, which are then placed in concrete forms. The two wall faces are poured around them. Pre drilled Styrofoam brand panels are available, or a builder can drill his own holes by simply placing the connector itself into his drill chuck. Each end of the connector faces together. A variety of connector sizes are available to accommodate different wall thicknesses. For more information, contact Composite Technologies Corporation, 525 E. Second St., Ames, IA 50010; 800/232-1748.

Slab-On-Grade Forms



Form and insulate foundation slabs in one step. Thermal Forms are insulated concrete forms designed for permanent installation. Forming panels are constructed of polystyrene foam with a dense ABS plastic covering. When the slab is poured, the concrete locks into a metal lip running along the top edge of each panel. Corner brackets and butt splices are available in 1 1/2- and 2-inch thicknesses and 8- to 24-inch widths. For more information contact Thermal Form, 701 E. 4th St., Perris, CA 92370; 714-943-5527.

Biaxial Block



Lightweight concrete block is compatible with "smart house" installations. To help today's buildings better accommodate "intelligent" mechanical systems, the National Concrete Masonry Association (NCMA) has developed the Bi-X Block. Openings in the end of each block line up to create a horizontal channel for pulling wire through or running pipe convenient handles for moving the block around. Knock-outs in the face of each block provide easy access for electrical boxes, phone jacks, security control panels, hvac, and anchoring devices. For more information contact Jorge Pardo, NCMA Innovative Design Research Division, P.O. Box 781, Herndon, VA 22070; 703/435-4900.

Pick-up Additions



Hydraulic utility arms are pick-up mounted. The Truxcavator is a small hydraulic backhoe that can be mounted on any standard half-ton pick-up truck. The initial installation of the utility arm and hydraulic pump takes the supplier about four hours. Quick-disconnect hoses and eight bolts then allow it to be dismantled or reassembled by the owner in about 20 minutes. Full-sized attachments include and auger, impact hammer, and concrete vibrator. It can lift 1,000 pounds at 5 feet or 500 pounds at 12 feet. For more information contact Tri-tech Equipment, Inc. 1120 S. Washington Ave., Scranton, PA 18505; 717/343-1345.



The Renegade doesn't offer a backhoe attachment but as a small crane it can lift a bit more: 2,000 pounds at 5 feet and 800 pounds at 12 feet. Attachments include a welder, auger, impact hammer, tamper and vibrator. The Renegade can be mounted at the front of the truck bed and takes up only 3 feet of cargo space. For more information contact R.P.I. Renegade, 2500 N. Fernbrook Ln., Plymouth, MN 55447; 612/559-8801. ■