

3.28 BLOWOUTS

Blowouts

Blowout is the word used to describe a failure or breach in an ICF wall. While blowouts with Greenblock forms are rare, they do occur from time to time. Most blowouts occur due to an oversight in construction or concrete which is too wet (high slump concrete mixture). However they can also be caused by a block that may be damaged or missing webs etc. If a bundle of forms appears damaged, look for web damage before installing blocks.

The main thing to note is that a blowout only affects a small portion of a wall, and if handled properly, will not cause any significant delays in production. If you do experience a blowout, follow these procedures:

- Continue your wall pour in another area so you don't lose any time.
- Cut out a clean opening where the damage is located and save the foam piece.
- Use your hands to remove the excess concrete in the blowout area. Use gloves to protect your hands.
- Clean up the removed foam piece and the area around the blowout and place it back into the hole.
- Take a piece of wood which is 12" longer on each side of the affected area and screw it into the ties on both sides of the opening, bracing across the patch.
- Brace adequately across the patch.
- Pay special attention to the opposite side of the wall where the blowout occurred. You might brace that area as well, if it looks as though the foam has been "stretched" or stressed.