



Barnes & Cone
ARCHITECTURAL MASONRY
Manufacturers of Concrete Masonry Since 1926

Advantages of Masonry Basement Systems



Concrete Masonry has been the most popular basement system in Central New York for over 90 years. While it's true that today's high technology block plants manufacture units for some of the most demanding structural, architectural and landscape applications, residential basements remain a large market for our machines. For the size of our community, Central New York has one of the largest populations of mason contractors in the country. This abundance of masonry craftsman means your project will be competitively bid and built without delay.

Concrete Blocks are laid by masons in rows (courses) with a mortar joint between them. Each row is overlapped so the units above and below are staggered creating a pattern (running bond). This is the traditional pattern which makes masonry walls so attractive. Concrete Masonry Units are available in a smooth finish or with a variety of textured architectural faces.

Concrete Masonry walls are attractive, have great durability, tremendous impact resistance and will not contribute to mold growth if they become exposed to water.

One of the reasons masonry has remained popular for so long is the system is flexible. There is never a need to limit walls to panelized heights and simple rectangular geometry. Height can easily be increased in 8" increments by adding additional rows of Concrete Masonry Units at far less expense than other systems. Walls can be built with various angles to create interesting features and rooms.

Concrete Masonry's small size facilitates adjusting wall openings for many window sizes and glass block panels which dramatically increase natural light. Basement space can be every bit as valuable and interesting as above grade - when you use Concrete Masonry.

Concrete Masonry is a true mass system and all mass systems perform best when the mass is exposed on the conditioned (heated or cooled) side of the wall. Insulation board can be placed on the exterior of the wall right over the waterproofing that is applied directly onto the Concrete Masonry wall. The insulation board helps protect the waterproofing and places the insulation on the best side of the wall to take advantage of the walls thermal mass and reduce condensation inside your basement. Concrete Masonry walls are available with true (not equivalent) R-values over 20!

Concrete Block are hollow in the center to conserve material, improve insulation and leave space for steel reinforcing. Only the area that needs steel reinforcement is filled solid, as little or as often as your builder's architect wants. Did you know that some of the largest buildings in Central New York have steel reinforced concrete masonry foundations?

Concrete block are manufactured right in Syracuse in the same plant we've been operating since 1926. We use a significant amount of recycled material in our units and because Concrete Masonry Basements provide both the structural and the architectural finish of the basement wall, they use far fewer materials than almost any other wall system.

Masonry basements with save precious natural resources, have a lighter carbon footprint, and can be the most comfortable homes to live in when doing things like exterior insulation.

Building Green? Masonry Is Your Best Tool

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