



Barnes & Cone
ARCHITECTURAL MASONRY
Manufacturers of Concrete Masonry Since 1926

Masonry Basement Systems



Concrete Masonry has been the most popular basement system in Central New York for over 90 years. Drive through our city's historic North Side and you can find many examples of concrete block homes that can be traced back to the early 1900's when block were made in machines ordered from Sears & Roebuck catalogues. While its 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.

History of Craftsmanship

For the size of our community, Central New York has one of the largest populations of mason contractors in the country. The history of our region has supported the masonry trade. The birthplace of the American Cement Industry was Chittenango, NY when in 1818 Canvass White invented natural cement to be used in the mortar for the stone masonry of the Erie Canal. The hundreds of miles of stone work that lined the canal required a large population of stone masons; many settled in this region after the canal was built.

This abundance of masonry craftsman means your project will be competitively bid and built without delay.

Masonry Basements Are Attractive

Concrete Block 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.

Your builder can leave the Masonry walls natural gray for you to coat yourself later or apply a colorful decorative coating during construction that can act as a second layer of waterproofing. We suggest not covering your Concrete Masonry walls with drywall. Colorfully coated Concrete Masonry walls are attractive, have great durability, tremendous impact resistance and will not contribute to mold growth if they become exposed to water.

Design Flexibility

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. 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.

Energy

Concrete Masonry is a true mass system and all mass systems¹ 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!

Strength

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?

Environmentally Friendly

Concrete block are manufactured right in Syracuse in the same plant we've been operating since 1926. 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.

¹ For further reading on Mass Systems please contact our office.

Building Green? Masonry Is Your Best Tool

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