

C.4 FOOTINGS

A properly designed and level footing will save time and money. Footing design is determined by local codes, as soil conditions can vary substantially from one area to the next. You should consult with a local engineer, the city or county where you are building, or conduct a soil test on the site to determine the bearing capacity of your soil and the requirements for the appropriate depth for protection from frost. PolySteel can be used in the construction of a code-accepted frost-protected shallow footing, as outlined in Section D.3 of the Tips and Techniques section of the Manual, however, in no case shall an exterior footing be constructed less than 12 inches below grade.

C.4.1 PROPER DESIGN.

Table A-3000-1 (Section E), in the Design Section of this Manual, illustrates the minimum size footing recommended for PolySteel one and two-story applications, as required by the Prescriptive Method. Use these tables in consulting with your local building officials for a properly designed footing.

C.4.2 LEVEL.

Place grade stakes (or pins) every 8 feet as a guide to screed the footing to level, or use the leveled formwork in place as a screed reference. If you have poor draining soil or other drainage requirements, you may want to consider using a self-draining, stay-in-place forming material, such as Form-A-Drain® for your footing. For more information on this product, refer to Section B.7.3. A level footing will save time in placing the first course of PolySteel Forms and speed the process of the entire installation.



CONSTRUCT A LEVEL FOOTING

C.4.3 WET SETTING.

The tongue-and-groove design of PolySteel Forms allows you to set the first course of forms into the wet footing (“wet set”), this practice is very common in some areas and can save a significant amount of time and material. For step-by-step instructions on how to set PolySteel in this way, see “SETTING POLYSTEEL FORMS IN WET FOOTINGS” (Section D.2) in the Tips and Techniques Section of the Manual and consult your local PolySteel representative for assistance.