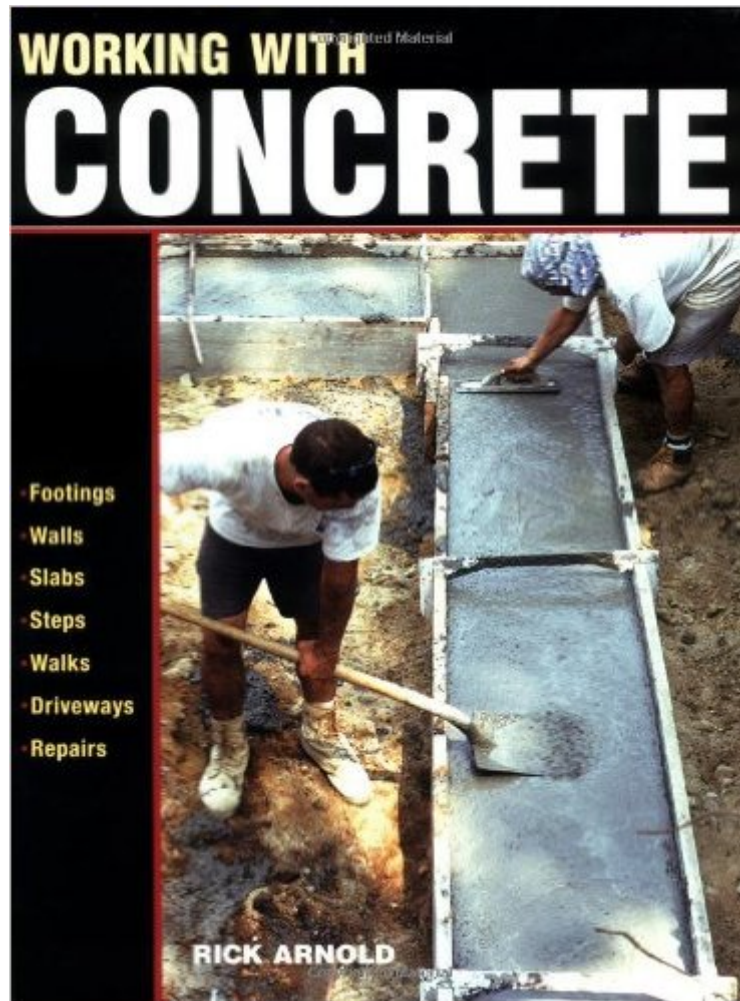


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# Working With Concrete (For Pros By Pros)



## Synopsis

Whether you're pouring a concrete walkway or staking out the excavation for a basement foundation, doing the job right demands a thorough knowledge of concrete construction techniques. In *Working with Concrete*, veteran builder Rick Arnold explains everything from mix characteristics and formwork options to waterproofing details and repair procedures. You'll benefit from Arnold's years as a general contractor, framer, and foundation contractor as he offers time- and money-saving advice that comes from understanding the subject from all angles. Get the rock-solid results you're after with this comprehensive guide to building with concrete. This book will enable you to: prepare a site for excavation evaluate soil conditions lay out footings and foundation walls use site-made and manufactured forms install proper reinforcement in footings, walls, and flat work estimate and order ready-mix concrete test and evaluate concrete quality before the pour build walkways, patios, steps, and slabs from start to finish

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

This is the better book on pouring concrete forms that Taunton Press offers. When I bought the book I was a complete novice. Now after 1 1/2 years and several large projects I am starting to learn what is missing. The book does not talk about the design of the forms. For example concrete exerts 150lb/sqft for every foot of height. At the bottom of a 2ft wall the pressure is 300lbs but at the bottom

of a 8ft wall the pressure is 1200lb/sqft. The plywood, 2x4 bracing, and ties need to be set for the height of a wall. You can lessen the number of ties in a wall by using stronger ties but then you have to make sure the grid spacing of the 2x4's will support the plywood. The pressure on the plywood can also be lessened if the pour is slowed down or done in two stages but if it is a small job that will take less than an hour to do the forms will get the full pressure. With the first form sys I rented there was nothing telling me how much pressure the forms would take. Trying to save some money I set everything up with ties on a 4'x 2' grid pattern this is O.K for say a 3ft wall but (lucky for me the guy that was going to pump the concrete told me) not strong enough for a 7ft wall. There are many different types of form sys if the one that is shown in the book is not available in your area you will need to do more research. If you are using a small inline pumper truck you need to order the concrete with small rock. Bracing the wall is also very important you are dealing with tons of weight so make sure the bracing holding the wall vertical/straight is done well. Forms are also called Falsework. With rebar in the form it is just about impossible to spray the form release on without getting it on the re-bar.

I frequently buy Taunton Press books. I usually enjoy their "By Pros, for Pros Series". That said, I hated this book. The first problem was that I saw duplicate material within 3 minutes. I own "Additions" by Taunton press, and yup, duplicate material. This book is "OK" for all you weekend builders, or people with absolutely no experience. However, any builder would be disappointed, this is an overview of what anyone with any common sense already knows, with no pro tips. Another problem is that pretty much all the examples show North East or "Cold Location" foundations. They all contain basements, with very minimal coverage of driveway or slab foundation forming. I don't recall seeing anything about setting "Beater Boards" even though you can get an article about it on [...] (same company, their magazine). This book would be good for someone who wants to MANAGE FOUNDATION POURS, but not to actually do the work. Maybe a homeowner, who wants it done right? I would also like to mention there is a NEW VERSION WHICH IS YELLOW, AND LOOKS LIKE RECYCLED CONTENT. I almost bought it, hoping for new content, but all "preview content" seems to show it's just a new cover, and no new material. ALL IN ALL, NOT VERY GOOD, BUT I LIKE THE COMPANY. Maybe try another product from them? They need to extensively update setting beater boards, setting, bracing, foundation pours. NOT JUST WITH TWO STORY FORMS FOR BASEMENT WALLS. You should show how to form and pour a continuous slab footing such as is used by IDK THE WHOLE WEST COAST, AND THE SOUTH? Oh, there is a small amount on building with block too.

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