

Connolly News



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A publication by Connolly KEY JOINT Pty. Ltd.

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“Steel Mate”

Conolly has just released the new Steelmate product to solve the problem of securing vertical starter bars into footings.

The common practice of tying bars in place is time consuming and frustrating as the bars frequently fall over or don't remain in place during concrete placement. This has lead to the common practice of “stabbing” the bars into the wet concrete. Although it may be easy for the contractor, this method has several problems that can lead to failures and is generally considered to be technically incorrect.

If the bars are stabbed in after the concrete begins to harden, aggregate displacement occurs which will lead to voids being formed around the bars and proper bonding will not occur between the bar and the surrounding concrete. If the bars are inserted too early they tend to fall over and become miss-aligned

The Steelmate provides a quick, easy and accurate way of installing starter bars prior to pouring. Steelmates are designed to nail in place on a piece of 35mm timber which is positioned where the bars are to be installed. The bars then simply clip securely into the Steemate product. The Steelmates are durable and re-usable and will accommodate starter bar sizes from 10mm to 24mm.

For further information, or a free sample, fill in your details and fax back as shown below.

Dowel Bars and Tie Bars

Dowels and tie bars are used frequently in concrete slabs but their differences are often mistaken.

Tie bars are installed in order to hold joints firmly closed whilst still allowing a small amount of warping at the joint. Tie bars are relatively thin and are deformed to provide the required anchorage.

Dowel bars are installed where a slab is going to be subjected to high loads such as vehicular traffic. The dowels provide sufficient load transfer across the joint and minimise the amount of differential movement between slabs. Dowel bars are larger in diameter, are plain and must not bond to the concrete in order to allow for contraction and expansion of the slabs.

One aspect that can be easily over looked is the correct alignment of dowel bars. For doweled joints to be effective the dowels must remain at 90 degrees to the joint direction and parallel to the joint movent. If dowels are aligned incorrectly it can cause the joint to “lock up” and not function properly.

The use of Connolly Universal Dowel Sleeves assists in maintaining correct dowel alignment during the concrete placement. These sleeves can be used in formed up construction joints, expansion joints, saw cut joints, and of course, with Connolly key joints.

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