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Patent No. 696707 - ABN 83 070 229 104

Precautions for drilling holes through Ezytube Column Forms

It is generally acceptable to drill a small hole through the side of the Ezytube Spiral and Plastic lined tube forms, subject to the diameter and location of the hole. It is however advisable to check with us about the specific nature and location of the intended hole prior to drilling.

These holes are generally to allow conduits to be placed internally of the column form prior to filling with concrete **and to penetrate the tube wall for easy access for electrical cables or pipes for plumbing purposes.**

The following points should be considered when drilling holes for these purposes:

- The hole should be round and even. Not rectangular with sharp corners.
- The tube comprises multiple overlapping layers of plastic reinforcing mesh, therefore the Ezytube is generally resistant to tearing without external reinforcing, however this is subject to the diameter of the hole relative to the diameter of the tube and the location of the hole in relation to the top/Bottom of the column.
(Obviously there is more pressure at the base of the column, therefore a greater likelihood of the hole enlarging or splitting when the hole is located lower in the column, ~~and there is an increased column height above the hole.~~)
- Larger diameter holes may require external bracing on the opposing side to the hole to prevent the intended round shape from distorting to an oval or out of round shape.
- There is no need to avoid drilling through an external lap joint as there are several internal spaced overlaps of the mesh material within the tube wall.
- Check with us advising of:
 - Diameter of the hole required
 - Diameter of the tube being used
 - Overall height of the tube
 - Distance from the centre of the hole from the base of the tube

Plastic Lined tubes:

In addition to the above considerations:

- All cut liner edges need to be fully retaped with the Ezytube-approved scrim/mesh reinforced tape to prevent concrete/slurry running behind the liner and in between the tube and the liner. (This is critical as failure to effectively seal the liner may result in significant defects on the columns surface)
- When pouring the concrete, where possible ensure that the flow of concrete is not directed at the taped penetration.
- Ensure that spoilage from the drilling process does not fall between the liner and the tube as this will be reflected as small dimple like blemishes on the surface of the concrete.

END
