

Hollowcore 101



Planning is key to a successful hollowcore project

Proper planning is key in all construction projects, but especially so with precast/prestressed concrete building systems.

Oldcastle Precast Building Systems is here to help you every step of the way from design development to installation. We have experienced personnel who can provide input from estimates to field services.

While much of the decisions are made early on in your hollowcore project, conditions at the job site do

affect the schedule.

Take the time to meet with the team in advance including all the contractors and suppliers to minimize unforeseen obstacles and schedule delays.

Prepare the site to receive the long flatbed truck trailers and the crane and designate access around the building footprint. This will help keep your project on budget and on time.

Common Practice: Planning

Whether you know it or not, floors are the

key element when it comes to architectural freedom and design: their load bearing capacity has a direct influence on the need for partition walls and other structural elements of a building. Hollowcore slabs are prestressed floor elements with voids. The excellent load-bearing capacity and structural efficiency allows you to build large areas with fewer partition walls. Ultimately, this means greater freedom in design and architecture during and after construction as well as savings in material costs.

See our web site for additional topics on hollowcore plank: camber, toppings, finished floor systems, openings, installation and more.

Locations:

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As early as possible, provide Oldcastle Precast with a site plan showing job site conditions as well as existing and final grades. Oldcastle will review the site plan and identify any conditions which may present access or crane reach problems.

Schedule a site inspection and meeting if necessary prior to the start of erection to confirm the necessary access route and crane setup locations.

The general contractor should obtain all necessary permits for construction, street use, and traffic control. Oldcastle Precast Building Systems will acquire the necessary permits to mobilize our equipment to the job site.

Staging

Some hollowcore projects are completed with only one crane mobilization. Others are erected in two or more phases, possibly weeks apart. With timely information, Oldcastle can more easily schedule crews and equipment for the project. It is important for the customer to provide accurate schedules early in the project and update it whenever necessary. Review the site conditions prior to each mobilization.

The general contractor should provide job site roads that are firm, stable and wide enough for all the equipment. Oldcastle cranes and trucks will be moved into position under their own power.

Crane operating locations have to be level, firm and large enough for efficient operations. Ramps and inside access must be provided as pre-planned.

Overhead obstructions must be carefully considered in planning. Power lines may have to be



Get to know more about proper planning for your Hollowcore project

Safe Sites

All of your planning and scheduling should be made with safety in mind. Oldcastle Precast Building Systems believes that safety and efficiency go hand in hand. All of our employees strive toward our goal of zero accidents. This focus on safety extends from the manufacturing plant to the job site. Oldcastle is also always looking for ways to minimize waste, increase recycling, improve energy efficiency and use eco-friendly materials.

All required supports should be in place before the plank erection begins .

Important Considerations for Access

moved or de-activated. Remove tree limbs if necessary.

Identify any and all existing underground utilities, trees, shrubs, existing concrete or asphalt which must be protected during installation.

All bracing and shoring of work performed by other trades must be in place before the hollowcore plank is installed.

Bearing surfaces must be smooth, true, level and to grade to assure the hollowcore floor is as flat and true as designed.

All required supports should be in place before the plank erection begins.