



**CUSTOMER GUIDE TO
EARTH WORKS GUIDE FOR SITE PREPARATION**



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Earth Works Guide for Site Preparation.

Before any work commences it is essential that the correct position of boundaries and minimum yard set backs are verified.

The foundation is one of the most essential components of a building. Foundations must be constructed on undisturbed ground which has a minimum ultimate ground bearing capacity of 300kpa or firm fill for which a certificate of suitability has been issued by a suitably qualified geotechnical engineer (NZS3604: 1999, 3.1.2).

To establish the ground bearing capacity it will be necessary to carry out penetrometer tests before the foundation or filling is started. Such tests should be arranged by your builder and can be undertaken by the Council or an engineer engaged by you.

If the ultimate ground bearing capacity of 300kpa is unable to be achieved, the building foundations will need specific engineering design (NZS3604: 1999, 3.4.1).

It will be necessary to engage a professional engineer before any ground preparation is started. The engineer will advise of particular requirements which will usually involve a site inspection and the preparation of a report providing for the foundation and ground preparation procedures. It will be essential that the building contractor adheres to the engineering requirements and procedures provided for in the report.

The fill material and procedures are specific with regard to inside a foundation wall. Where the fill inside the wall is less than 600mm in depth, the maximum diameter of fill material must be 37.5mm and the compaction of the fill must be undertaken in layers of a maximum depth of 150mm (NZS3604:1999, 7.5.3.2)

Where the depth of fill inside a foundation wall is greater than 600mm, construction will be subject to specific engineering design and construction procedures.

When the engineer is satisfied that the foundation and/or foundation wall preparation has been completed and has been undertaken in accordance with specifications and the engineer's report, a Producers Certificate Construction (PS3) will be required from the contractor and a Producers Certificate Construction Review will be required from your engineer. This documentation **must** be provided to the Council.

Note:

Some site works may require resource consent from the West Coast Regional Council:

- If the filled pad is going to block an existing watercourse or the water course needs piping;
- If it is going to cause ponding on an adjoining section;
- If the slope of the land is greater than 12 degrees;
- If new storm water run off is directed into other land.

If any of the above apply, it will be essential to discuss the matter with one of the West Coast Regional Council's Compliance Officers before commencing work.

Useful websites

Certified Builders Association of NZ Inc (CBANZ)
www.certified.co.nz

Registered Master Builders Federation Inc (RMBF)
www.masterbuilder.org.nz

New Zealand Institute of Architects (NZIA)
www.nzia.co.nz

Architectural Designers NZ Inc (ADNZ)
www.adnz.org.nz

Association of Consulting Engineers (ACENZ)
www.acenz.org.nz

BRANZ Ltd
www.branz.co.nz

NZ Institute of Quantity Surveyors Inc (NZIQS)
www.nziqs.co.nz

NZ Institute of Surveyors (NZIS)
www.surveyors.org.nz

Department of Building and Housing (DBH)
www.dbh.govt.nz
Downloads of Building Act and Building Code information

Institution of Professional Engineers (IPENZ)
www.ipenz.org.nz

NZ Institute of Building Surveyors Inc (NZIBS)
www.buildingsurveyors.co.nz

Consumers' Institute of New Zealand
www.consumerbuild.org.nz

