

Foundation concrete

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Question

Is it acceptable to use a dry mix concrete to dry up the bottom of foundations excavations?

Considerations

- NHBC Standards Chapter 3.1 gives guidance on the design requirements for concrete in construction and promotes the supply of ready mix concrete from suppliers who are QSRMC or BSI Kitemark registered. Dry mix placed into a wet foundation will not comply with this specification.
- It is not possible to accurately determine how much dry concrete to use in order to absorb the water in the excavation.

Answer

The placing of dry mix concrete to absorb excess water in foundation bottoms is not acceptable.

If water is present in a foundation excavation to the extent that it can be pumped out via a sump this is the method that should be used.