

Polycrete® Big Block™ *At the risk of sounding like we're trashing the other guys, here are the real differences between Polycrete® Big Block™ and other ICFs:*

- Size of the form: Big Block™ measures 2' x 8', so it's absolutely the largest ICF anywhere – 12" and 18" heights are also available, and we can mix and match panel heights on the same block. We call that Split-Blok.
- Width of the form: Four standard widths, and **any width** from 5-5/8" up to 24" of concrete is available. Need 6-1/2"? We can give it to you. 9-1/4"? We can give you that, too. Any width you want. No other ICF offers this option.
- Pre-cutting: Send us your plans and we'll digitally optimize the material, make all the cuts in the factory and send you a complete numbered and labelled ICF wall kit ready to assemble. Saves time, reduces labor cost and nearly eliminates waste altogether.
- Big Block™ folds flat and is delivered to the jobsite ready to install; over 5,100 sqft per truckload.
- End blow outs! Can we prevent blow outs altogether? No, we can't. An incompetent installer can screw up anything. But Big Block 1600™ is held together with STEEL. Steel connectors tie the panels together, and a web of .16" welded steel wire is embedded in the EPS foam so it can withstand 1,600 lbs. of lateral pressure per square foot. No other ICF comes close!
- No pea gravel. Those big plastic cross ties that the other guys use require pea gravel and additives to assist the concrete to flow around the ties. Big Block's™ .16" steel cross ties won't impede the flow of concrete, so you use plain old 5/8" aggregate.
- Plastic cross ties can become a highway for moving moisture from the outside to the inside of your building. Concrete adheres to our steel cross ties and eliminates that problem, making Big Block™ the superior air / moisture barrier.
- Less jobsite waste saves money. Steel ties and steel mesh allow cut-offs to be used elsewhere in the job.
- R-Stak™ inserts let you effortlessly increase insulation's R-value to R30 or more – whatever your project requires up to 18" of foam.
- A concrete wall must be vibrated to eliminate voids and honeycombing. Use a mechanical vibrator on a Polycrete® wall. It will not break the form or the cross ties. The other guys' plastic ties and unreinforced foam blocks can blow out if you hit them with a vibrator.
- Steel ties and embedded steel mesh eliminate scalloping and prevent wall movement during the pour. A Polycrete wall is **straight and FLAT**. The other guys can get to straight and flat, but it takes a whole lot more work and a really good installer.
- No need to line up vertical plastic studs like all the others. Big Block's™ 22-gauge steel fastening strips are horizontal, not vertical. This simplifies the attachment of partition walls and finishes. This means faster installation, lower labor costs, and less waste.
- No molded corners! Big Block's™ inherent structural integrity and proprietary corner guides ensure perfectly plumb corners every time, effortlessly. This also means fewer items to order. And what happens if you don't order enough of the other guys' molded corners? Or if you get too many "lefts" and not enough "rights"? Forget about it.
- Ship-lapped top and bottom profiles simplify stacking – no need to fit those little Lego-like nubs into little holes.
- Don't glue or tie successive courses together. Big Block's™ design and great strength use the weight of the concrete to lock successive courses together. And braces are screwed into the steel fastening strip every 12 inches up the wall anyway. This means that *two braces fasten at four points on each Big Block™*. Gluing is not only unnecessary, it is undesirable.
- Recycled Raw Material -- Big Block™ contains 66% recycled raw materials -- **it's the steel**. Others are no more than 40% and it's their plastic ties.
- **The money is in the labor.** Traditional ICFs jobs are completed at 7 to 11 sqft per man hour. That is the standard in the industry. But an average trained crew can install Big Block™ at the rate of 20 sqft per man hour – **two to three times faster**. The more experienced the crew, the faster they go. A recent Polycrete® project was completed in 30 sqft per man hour - including ICF, bracing, corners, door & window bucks, placing concrete and even clean-up, all in winter conditions. **Info@PolycreteUSA.com 800-570-4313**