

HYDRAFORM AFRICA (PTY) LTD



Leaders in Soil-cement Technology.
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Hydraform load bearing 220mm wide walls for double and triple storey buildings

Hydraform recommends that when building a double or triple storey building with Hydraform blocks a professional structural engineer is used to design the building. Hydraform also recommends that for a triple storey building using the Hydraform blocks a concrete column and beam frame, designed by a professional structural engineer, is used.

Tests have been performed in South Africa to determine the suitability of a 220mm wide Hydraform wall for multistorey structures.

A test, performed by the Building Technology Division of the CSIR in South Africa, found that the Hydraform building system was suitable for the use in load bearing walls for triple storey buildings. However the test did not use any lateral 'wind' loading nor were the walls eccentrically loaded. Hence, until further testing is done, Hydraform recommends for triple storey buildings that a concrete column and beam frame is used. The Hydraform blocks can then be built into the open panels in the frame.

Further testing, performed in the University of Witwatersrand civil engineering laboratory with a wall laterally and eccentrically loaded, has proven the suitability of the Hydraform system for a double storey building.

It is of paramount importance that any double or triple storey Hydraform structure is designed by a professional engineer and that the blocks used in the walls are of 7MPa or stronger.

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