

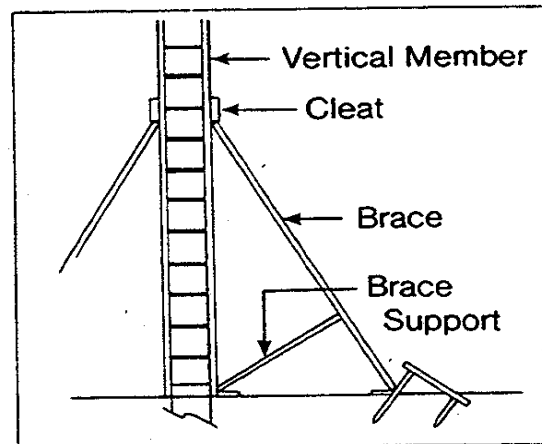
Masonry Wall Bracing

Masonry walls under construction collapse far too frequently. It is not acceptable to treat masonry bracing casually during construction.

Recent changes in design, codes, and public attitude place a great demand on the need for a well-planned and secure temporary support system for the masonry wall under construction.

General Guidelines for Wall Bracing

- Ensure that masonry walls are not built higher than 10 times their thickness unless they are adequately braced.
- Ensure that masonry walls constructed with joint reinforcing wire and/or cell rebar reinforcing are not be built higher than 10 times their thickness unless they are adequately braced.
- Ensure that braces are inclined 30° to 40° to the horizontal and adequately fastened to remain in position.
- Understand that mortar bonds will crack before a masonry wall tips. Look for telltale cracks in the mortar joints immediately after a wind storm. If cracks are present, seek engineering advice.
- Check local laws or regulations pertaining to wall bracing, as they maybe more specific.
- Understand that soils also play an important part in the effectiveness of a masonry wall bracing system. Loose, frozen, or wet soil can dangerously weaken a wall bracing system.
- When standard wall bracing techniques cannot be applied, retain an engineer familiar with wall bracing systems to design special bracing.



A parting thought: Failure to erect a good wall support system may give you the opportunity to see what a collapsed masonry wall looks like.

If you are not lucky and injuries and major damage results, you may have the opportunity of trying to manage the jobsite from a lawyer's office or courtroom.