Technical Bulletin



Foamular® Extruded Polystyrene Insulation

August, 2009

Foamular Foundation Properties for Load Bearing Slab Applications

Foamular Extruded Polystyrene Insulation is suitable for use under concrete slabs. The Foamular compressive strength needed is determined by load on the slab, and the thickness and reinforcing of the slab. Although many solutions are possible with proper engineering design, Foamular 250 is commonly used under residential slabs, and Foamular 400 and 600 are commonly used under industrial slabs.

The Foamular Foundation Properties table provides engineering data for individual project analysis if needed.

Foamular Foundation Properties									
Foamular	llar Foundation Modulus (pci) ^{1, 2, 3}						Compressive Stress (psi)		
Product	Thickness (in.)					Live ⁵	Dead ⁵	Ultimate ⁴	
	1"	1.5"	2"	2.5"	3"	4"	Recommended	Recommended	
150	590	550	500	450	400	300	3	5	15
250	750	710	675	595	565	510	5	8.3	25
400	1100	1000	900	780	680	650	8	13.3	40
600	1520	1400	1275	1150	1040	790	12	20	60
1000	NA		2600	NA	NA	NA	20	33.3	100

1. Foundation modulus is a measure of deflection at given loads, expressed as inches deflection per inch of thickness or "pci".

- 2. For insulation installed in multiple layers, assuming the layers are identical, the foundation modulus for the system equals the foundation modulus for one of the layers divided by the total number of layers.
- 3. For insulation systems that utilize a variety of thicknesses, the system foundation modulus is determined by adding the reciprocal of the foundation modulus of the individual layers. The total is the reciprocal value for the foundation modulus of the entire system.
- 4. Ultimate compressive stress is measured at 10% deformation or yield, whichever occurs first. For thinner product (1"), yield typically occurs first. For thicker products (1.5" and thicker), yield typically occurs first with 3% to 4% deformation.
- 5. Recommended stress (load) levels will limit long term compressive creep to not exceed 2% in 20 years.



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