



Rebar Spacers

- What are they?

What are Concrete (Rebar) Spacers?

A spacer for concrete is an item that keeps the steel in place within concrete. This usually means that the spacer will ensure that the steel is no less than 1 cm from the edge of the concrete. It is made to ensure the steel stays encased in concrete and no air or water can penetrate it.

If the steel stays too close to the surface or steel spacers have been used the following may happen:



Eventually the steel rusts and degrades to an extent that the concrete structure – no matter what it is, will likely fail. Ensuring your steel is positioned correctly can avoid this.

What types of spacers for concrete are there?

Simple answer – lots... but these can be broken down two different sections.

Plastic spacers – These are widely used across the industry in a wide array of different shapes and sizes.



These types of spacer are used all over the construction and precast industry; they are used in posts and panels, and are generally encased within the product. The advantages of these are the fact that they are easy to use, cheap and fast to fasten on. They are also resistant to rust and the elements.

Where they fall down is if they are exposed they can route water to the steel, (worst case scenario) so it's important to ensure they are fully encased in the concrete.

Concrete Spacers – These are made from concrete that means that you have a distinct advantage of the fact that the concrete spacer will chemically bond to the concrete that it gets encased in. This means that no water can come into the concrete (via the spacer fault) and it means that the concrete structure is that bit stronger.

These spacers are mainly used for the form work on high rise buildings.



The other advantage with demoulded concrete spacers is that the sizes will be imprinted on the sides of the concrete spacers meaning your men will know which side the spacer will be placed and whether it's the correct spacer or not.

And a third...

Steel Spacers – I'm mentioning these spacers but hesitantly, as these have been band in the EU, but are still being used in the USA, I would strongly suggest against using metal spacers, as even a small amount of metal exposed can cause the concrete to fail if the water gets into contact with the steel and makes it rust and fail.