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**Subject:** Polycrete Big Block - What's the Big Deal?  
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**AT A GLANCE**

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- [Red Hot Green Building - More Data](#)
- [Just How Strong is Big Block?](#)
- [MIT Researches Concrete Building](#)
- [Greenest Building in NY is ICF](#)

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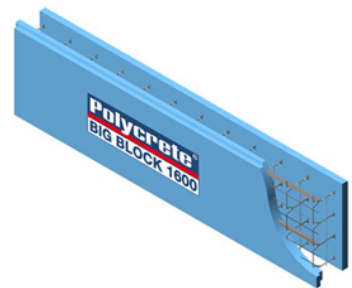


**FEATURED**

**So What's the Big Deal about Big Block™?**

Polycrete® Big Block™ has made a splash in the ICF Industry -- but there's still a bit of confusion about what makes it such a big deal. We want to clear up that confusion and set the record straight.

The ICF industry has come a long way from its beginnings as a fringe interest of the environmental movement. But the leap from residential to commercial construction has been a challenge. Building commercial structures with what has been essentially a residential product has resulted in plenty of successes, but also plenty of disappointments in the form of cost overruns, construction delays, and difficult installations.



The intent is good. The finished buildings perform great. But the construction process is often difficult.

That's why Polycrete® invented Big Block™. **Three times the size and more than twice the strength** of typical ICFs makes Big Block™ a truly Commercial Grade ICF that can stand up to the demands of the commercial construction industry. Even better, the Polycrete® installer on your commercial construction project will be a seasoned concrete contractor, fully qualified to perform all of the concrete work on your ICF project. [Read More](#)

**WHAT'S NEW**



**Green Building is Still Red Hot**

According to McGraw Hill, even in this crummy economy, green construction grew from \$41 billion to \$71 billion in the past two years. By 2015, non-residential green building is expected to reach \$145 Billion -- a 48% market share.

In their "[Green Outlook 2011](#)" report, McGraw Hill cited



**Here's How Strong Big Block™ Really Is...**

Serge Meilleur and Andre Grenon, Polycrete co-founders and Big Block™ inventors will tell you that the Big Block can withstand more than 1,600 lbs of lateral pressure during the concrete pour.

three main drivers of the green building market:

Reduction in operating costs of 13.6% on average for new buildings and 8.5% for retrofits; Increase in building values of 10.9% for new buildings and 6.8% for retrofits; increase in return on investment (ROI) of 9.9% for new buildings and 19.2% for retrofits.

Other key propellants to this explosion are market differentiation, growing public awareness and government regulation. Many federal, state and local government projects are now seeking LEED certification.

Polycrete ICFs can help you build green. Big Block Contributes to 25 LEED points, cuts HVAC costs by 40% or more and contains 66% recycled raw materials just for starters. Call or [Email us](#) for more information



### MIT Researches Concrete Buildings

Massachusetts Institute of Technology's (MIT) Concrete Sustainability Hub is performing lifecycle analysis of building materials that will include economic impacts as well as environmental ones. It will include an analysis of the use phase as well as construction and decline, which is not typical.

And the lifespan window considered is significantly longer than those traditionally used -- 75 years for structures.

This is a big deal for the ICF industry, as it will factor in the reduced energy consumption over the life of the building and clarify the enormous reduction to a building's carbon footprint that results from ICF construction.

Here's a link to the [interim report](#). Note that comparisons are only between Concrete and Steel construction and ICFs have not even been factored into the calculations yet.



But what exactly does that mean? The real proof is in the pudding. Or pouring. Or third party testing.

Recent independent Intertek test results of Big Block's "Forming Capacity" tell the tale.

The testers built a Big Block wall, ten feet long and eight feet tall from Big Block forms with a 9-5/8" core width. Measuring devices were placed at nine places in the wall and then concrete was pumped into the forms.

Guess what happened.... Nothing. They poured a four-foot lift, vibrated the heck out of it. Waited 15 minutes and then topped it off and vibrated the heck out of it again. Essentially an eight foot lift. The sensors read ZERO DEFORMATION. No bulges, no scallops, no waves. A perfectly flat wall. It skewed only 3mm over the entire 80 square feet of wall, and that's easily corrected by adjusting the bracing. [Click here](#) for the full report.



### Greenest Building in New York

According to The Queens Courier, a new rental development in Rego Park was recently named the state's "best performing building in a multifamily new construction four stories or greater" by Steven Winter Associates (SWA), a leading architectural, engineering research and consulting firm.

SWA found that The Andrew has outperformed every building that SWA has ever worked on, performing over 50 percent more efficient than conventional construction.

Ryan Merkin, senior project manager of SWA said "The cost of building the ICF system was the same as that of a conventional building that has fewer sustainability features, so we know this design will set the standard for efficiency in the future." [Read the full article here.](#)

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**Insulated concrete forms are forms for building very strong, very quiet, highly energy efficient structures. You get the structural wall, fully insulated and ready for sheetrock and exterior siding -- all in one step. Polycrete® Big Block™ is the biggest, strongest ICF available. Call 804.441.6234**

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