

Making a 1.2m concrete slab for various toilet constructions



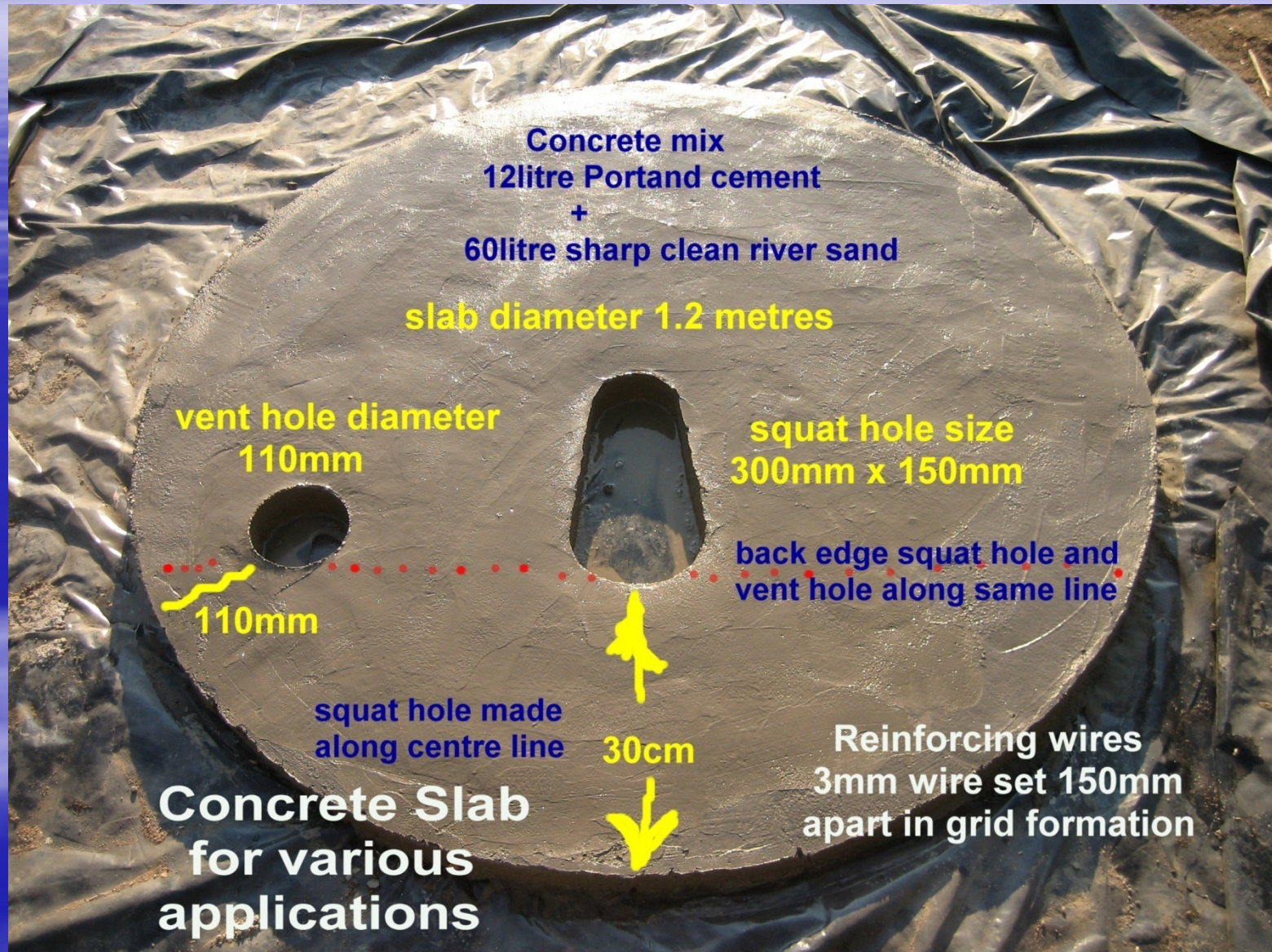
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Making the 1.2m concrete slab

This slab can be used to make a variety of toilet constructions. The slab is flat and 1.2m in diameter and has openings for the squat and vent pipe. The slab is made using a mix of 12 litres of Portland cement and 60 litres of clean sharp river sand (5:1). It is cast either in steel shuttering or a mould made of bricks. 3 = 4mm wire is used as reinforcing. A mould for the squat hole (30cm X 15cm) is placed 30cm from the rear of the slab. A vent pipe hole (diameter 110mm) is placed 110mm from the edge of the slab to one side and in line with the rear of the squat hole.



Slab details



The concrete slab

The slab can be made over wet levelled ground covered with sand or on plastic sheet. Plastic sheet is preferred. Half of the concrete mix is added within the mould or shuttering first (taking care that the vent and squat hole moulds do not move). Then the 3 – 4 mm wire is added in a grid formation. The second half of the concrete mix is then added and levelled off and smoothed with a steel float or trowel. After an hour or two the moulds for the squat hole, and vent hole are removed. Steel shuttering can also be removed at this time



The concrete slab

Once the slab has hardened slightly and the squat and vent hole moulds have been removed, it is covered with plastic sheet and left to harden overnight. The following morning it is soaked with water and recovered with the plastic sheet. It is kept wet at all times for at least a week (under plastic) before it is moved. During this time the pit can be dug and lined with bricks. It is important that the cement is Portland quality and the river sand of a high quality. If there is doubt the ratio of the sand cement mix should be increased to 4:1.

