

## GROUNDFORM & SIDEFORM



### INSTALLATION

#### General:

- The excavations for the ground beams must be carried out generally in accordance with BS 6031 : 2009 paying particular attention to any site specific safety procedures or requirements.
- Installation of the Groundform / Sideform panels should be undertaken from outside the excavation where possible unless appropriate measures are in place to allow safe entry. Precautions should be taken to ensure the sides of the excavation do not collapse during installation of the product, for example using shoring.
- Where there is a requirement to cut the panels, this should be undertaken using a sharp, bladed tool with the necessary precautions taken.

#### Preparation:

- Groundform / Sideform panels should be placed upon a suitable firm and level surface. Typically, a blinding layer beneath the panels is recommended.

#### Procedure:

- Individual Groundform / Sideform panels should be butted together, jointed using the Groundform / Sideform connectors and staple clips, with taping of the joints using the Cordek Formwork Tape to avoid any grout loss between them.
- For piled ground beams, the top of each pile should be trimmed so that it extends slightly above the proposed underside of the ground beam. Each pile should penetrate the Groundform panel to allow for a keying depth into the ground beam based upon the project specific design.
- When using flat Groundform panels to form a U-shaped profile, a sharp bladed tool should be used to score along one side, following the direction of the flute. Care should be taken not to cut through both sides of the panel which will separate the base from the sides.

#### Product Identification:

- **Groundform** – Available as large, flat panels to be manipulated on site by the installer or alternatively available pre-scored to form U-shape profiles to suit the specific ground beam dimensions required.
- **Sideform** - Available as large, flat panels to be manipulated on site by the installer or alternatively available 'cut to size' to suit the specific ground beam depth.
- Both products are grey in colour and comprise of an 8mm thick, twin wall, fluted polypropylene panel.

#### Product Selection & Suitability:

- The suitability of Groundform / Sideform for the application it is intended should be based upon the recommendations and specification of the Project Design Team and in accordance with the following:
  - > NHBC guidance (where applicable)
  - > Cordek Corgrid Data Sheet

#### Storage & Handling

- Packs of Groundform / Sideform and individual panels can be manually handled and offloaded upon delivery, taking into account any site specific manual handling regulations.
- Due to the relatively light nature of the product, all Groundform / Sideform packs / panels should be weighted down or secured should they be stored outside prior to installation. No further storage requirements are needed as the product is unaffected by both UV light and water.
- Groundform / Sideform panels must not be exposed to flame or ignition. Careful consideration should also be given to the management of fire risk when in storage; detailed guidance is given in the material safety data sheet which is available upon request.

For further guidance on product selection and suitability, please consult the Cordek Technical Team on 01403 799600, [tech-support@cordek.com](mailto:tech-support@cordek.com) or visit our website at [www.cordek.com](http://www.cordek.com).

## Connecting Groundform / Sideform Panels:

- **Step One:** Connectors should be attached to the vertical ends of the panels.
- **Step Two:** The adjoining panels should be positioned so that they locate in the open sides of the connectors.
- **Step Three:** Staple clips should be used to secure the connection between the adjoining panels by being positioned over the connector and pushed down into the panels on either side.
- **Step Four:** Install form braces by slotting over the vertical panels.

## Inter-connecting beams:

- **Step One:** Cut the vertical panels to allow them to open towards the perpendicular connecting beam.
- **Step Two:** Position perpendicular panels with vertical sides on the outside of the opened connecting panel.
- **Step Three:** Apply Cordek Formwork Tape to secure the two connecting panels together.

## Corner Detail:

- **Step One:** Corner connectors should be fixed prior to connection of the perpendicular panels.
- **Step Two:** The adjoining panels should be positioned so that the vertical ends locate in the open side of the connectors.
- **Step Three:** Staple clips should be used to secure the connection between the adjoining panels by being positioned over the connector and pushed down into the panels on either side.

## Pile Detail:

- **Step One:** When installing Groundform panels adjacent to piles, the base of the panels should be cut using a sharp, bladed tool to form a void to suit the diameter of the pile.
- **Step Two:** The adjoining panels should be positioned so that the vertical ends locate in the open side of the connectors.
- **Step Three:** Staple clips should be used to secure the connection between the adjoining panels by being positioned over the connector and pushed down into the panels on either side.

## Concrete Placement:

- Prior to placement of concrete, any voids between the excavation and the external, vertical sides of the Groundform / Sideform panels should be backfilled with loose, granular material.
- Reinforcement spacers can be positioned directly upon / against the Groundform / Sideform panels.
- The number, type and frequency of the reinforcement spacers should be selected to maintain adequate concrete cover between the reinforcement and the Groundform / Sideform panels. Further guidance on the use of reinforcement spacers can be found in the relevant Cordek data sheets and in BS 7973-1 (2001).
- Reinforcement or other construction materials should not be stockpiled on top of the Groundform / Sideform panels.