

BELL SYSTEM PRACTICES
Outside Plant Construction
and Maintenance

SECTION G43.120.7
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MANHOLES

CONCRETE FORMS

REMOVAL AND CARE OF FORMS

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1. REMOVAL OF FORMS

1.01 See G45.150.1 for period of time required for concrete to set before removing forms.

1.02 Except in the case of very small manholes, the work of removing the forms can be handled efficiently by three men, two stationed in the manhole to do the dismantling and one stationed on top to lift the form pieces out of the hole and stack them. Each of the men doing the dismantling work should be equipped with a hammer, a wrecking bar and an aligning tool. The wedges can be loosened by striking directly with a hammer or by inserting the aligning tool in the hole in the wedge and striking the tool. In some cases they are more readily removed by prying loose with a wrecking bar.

1.03 The first step in removing the form is to take out the braces and remove the bolts placed through the form to hold the cable rack inserts and the base posts. The next step is the removal of the roof panels. These should be removed one at a time by taking out the pins and wedges and tapping the portion exposed at the roof opening. **Support the roof pieces by hand so that when they break loose from the concrete they will not fall.** The roof corners are next removed. Usually these pieces also can be loosened by tapping with a hammer at the roof opening. The panel sections and vertical corner pieces are removed last. In cases where several small panels are adjacent to each other in the assembly and are to be re-used in the same relative positions, it will often be found desirable to remove these panels as a unit and to leave them assembled for future use.

1.04 To loosen a form part which is tightly in contact with the concrete, the hooked end of a wrecking bar can be inserted in a hole in the flange and used as a pry against the concrete wall. The aligning tool also can be used in the flange holes either to pry one form part away from another or, in conjunction with a wrecking bar, to pry a form part away from the concrete. Although the form parts are reasonably strong, they should not be unnecessarily abused by excessive prying and hammering.

1.05 After removing the form, the manhole should be equipped with cable racks as specified in G43.140.1.

2. CARE OF FORMS

2.01 The form parts should be cleaned and oiled soon after their removal and any dents, broken welds or other damages should be repaired. In cleaning the forms, any large particles of cement adhering to the surface can be removed with a steel scraper. All surfaces which come in contact with concrete should be coated with a light oil such as is used for automobile springs. This grade of oil is recommended because it is easy to apply with a paint brush or rag and it does not make the forms too slippery to handle. The oil serves to retard rusting of the form where the galvanizing may not be intact and it also serves to prevent a bond between the steel and the concrete.

2.02 It is not necessary to oil the forms before use if an oily film remains from the last cleaning.

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