

## Topic: CMU Wire Reinforcing

### Question:

Is wire reinforcement with 3/16 inch diameter side rods or 3/16 inch diameter side and cross rods better than standard 9 gauge side and cross rods?

### Answer:

No, for the most part it is just the opposite. The primary purpose for wire in today's reinforced walls is to reduce CMU wall shrinkage. It is very difficult to surround 3/16 inch diameter wire with mortar when placed in 3/8 inch bed joints. This is especially evident when considering allowed tolerances for masonry units and joint sizes. Mortar better surrounds wire when utilizing 9 gauge flush welded side and cross rods, increasing resistance to shrinkage cracking. It is no surprise demand for truss wire has fallen significantly in the last decade. The market simply demands higher performance 9 gauge 16 inch core-clear ladder!

### Supporting Documents:

#### **TECH Talk**

Daniel S. Zechmeister, P.E.

Executive Director

**Masonry Institute of Michigan, Inc.**

(www.mim-online.org)

[Click here for article](#)



#### **Selecting the right reinforcement for the job**

Mario J. Catani

[Click here for article](#)

