

## Topic: CMU Wire Reinforcing

### Question:

What is the best wire for Single Wythe CMU and for Multi-Wythe CMU Cavity Wall?

### Answer:

Contrary to popular belief, wire reinforcing today typically offers no structural stability. In fact, the primary purpose of wire reinforcement in modern masonry wall systems is simply to help resist CMU shrinkage cracking. Typically, vertical and bond beam rebar reinforcement serves to resist wind loading.

Truss wire is not recommended for use in reinforced CMU. Diagonal cross rods make it impossible to meet modern grouting standards referenced in the IBC and sub-referenced in ACI Building Code Requirements for Masonry Structures. Ladder wire with cross rods spaced 16 inches on center allows code required centering of rebar, freer flow of grout and promotes full embedment in mortar at every intersection where side and cross rods meet on the inner and outer CMU face-shell, resisting wall shrinkage.

### Supporting Documents:

#### ***Climb the Ladder***

#### ***To Improve Wall Reinforcing Design***

Written by Kyle Lochonic & Jeff Snyder  
and is published in the Masonry Magazine.

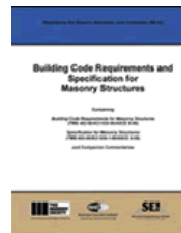
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#### ***Building Code Requirements and Specification for Masonry Structures***

Reported by the Masonry Standards Joint Committee (MSJC)

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