



How to construct basic formwork

Concrete has to be supported by a frame or edging, known as formwork, until it has set. The formwork is constructed directly on a prepared sub-base.

Step 1

Set out the site using builder's lines and eight wooden pegs.

Create the wooden pegs by cutting one end of 50 x 50mm pieces of timber into sharp points using a panel saw.

Hammer two wooden pegs into the ground at each corner of the site, a short distance from the base area (as pictured).

Run a builder's line from each peg to its opposite and tie it taut. The lines should mark the edges of the concrete which will be on the inside of the formwork.

Use a builder's square to check the corners are exactly 90°.



Step 2

Saw a plank of rough-sawn timber to length and place it in position along the high side of the site.

Hammer a wooden peg into the sub-base at each end, outside the area to be concreted. Do so until the pegs are flush with the top of the plank



Step 3

Use a spirit level to make sure the plank is level, and then secure each end of the plank to the wooden pegs with 50mm nails.



Step 4

Attach the last plank and complete the square or rectangle.

Make sure that there are pegs at the corners and that the corners are tight-fitting by nailing the planks together. It doesn't matter if the planks run past the edge of the square, as they do in the picture.



Step 5

Hammer in pegs at roughly 1m intervals along the outside of the formwork.

The structure must be solid - it's very difficult to alter it once you begin concreting.