



Excavation Notes for PolyVoid Slabs

The following table has been prepared to highlight the high level differences in site excavation requirements between a conventional PolyVoid slab versus a strip-footing based raft slab, or waffle slab

Site Preparation Process	PolyVoid Slab Requirement	Strip-footing Raft or Waffle Slab Requirement
Bulk site excavation for the removal of reactive soil and organic matter	This process is not required at all	Generally required in order to ensure that the site's overall reactivity is reduced and therefore places less pressure on the footing system
Importation of granular material for compaction and site stabilisation	This process is not required at all	Once the reactive material is taken away, there is generally a need for a stable material to be imported in order for the footing structure to have a stable base
Compaction ("controlling fill")	This process is not required at all	Once the granular material has been imported and spread across the site, it then needs to be compacted by way of a roller in order for it to be deemed a "controlled fill"
Certification	This process is not required at all	Generally, site compaction needs to be properly certified
Detailed Excavation	This process is minimally required depending on the engineer's design requirements around the edge-beams. Generally, a rough 'scratch-out' is only required in order to set the edge voids into the ground for the beams. This level of excavation is not generally affected by inclement weather conditions	Strip footing slabs require a heavily detailed excavation for the creation of the concrete beams. Depending on the site's reactivity levels, these can reach depths of over 1m. The less accurate the excavation, the more concrete is used. This method of construction can also lead to time delays in the event of inclement weather

SUMMARY

PolyVoid based slabs by design, are suspended slabs. The PolyVoid void former protects the slab from all forms of soil movement and therefore it is unnecessary to carry out extensive "preventative" earthworks. Apart from achieving the required levels, there is no further excavation or treatment required.