

WEEP HOLES

5/15/2013

Weep holes are holes drilled, generally ¼” in dia, in the bottom of the plank at the bottom of the void to release any trapped water that may have gotten in after erecting the plank. The holes are drilled at the ends of the plank as the camber forces the water to the ends.

Hollow core does not have any water in the voids when it is erected. Water is introduced either by wet coring or cutting the plank after grouting or by heavy rain that accumulates and sits at the butt joints (ends) and seeps into the plank from shrinkage cracks in the grouted butt joint. This rainwater will typically be minimal and since it most likely happens early in the construction stage, it will continue to seep out the bottom of the plank and be out of the voids before finishes go in.

Cored holes however will deliver a large amount of water at one time but only in the voids that are cut by the coring. Since coring introduces a lot of water usually later in the construction sequence, this is the water that must be weeped out.

This can usually be observed as a “wet spot” on the underside of the plank if the cored void is followed along to the bearing point. These voids should be drilled to release this water. Test holes can be drilled on either side of these cored voids to check for seepage into adjoining voids.

It is our experience that unless there is long term exposure to puddle water from rain on the butt joints, water is confined to the cored voids only. Topping or roofing the plank as soon as possible before any rain, generally stops the rain intrusion.

Coreslab feels that since we did not introduce the water, we should not be held accountable to drain the water. Drilling of weep holes in every plank can be very time consuming as there are 8 voids in 6” plank, 6 in 8” plank, and 5 in 10” plank, therefore necessitating up to 16 holes drilled per plank. These holes would then have to be patched before painting.

We highly recommend that a building be surveyed for wet spots on the underside of the plank and test holes be drilled in both wet and dry areas as well as at cored voids to determine if there is a water problem. If water is observed as expected and described above, weep holes can be drilled to relieve the water to avoid future problems.

Coreslab specifically excludes this work unless specifically called for in pricing and by contract.

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