The Concrete Advantage in Basement Walls

Concrete is always the first choice for residential basement walls. Consider these advantages:

- **Its Strong**
  Concrete is much stronger than other foundation materials. What's more, it actually gains strength when it ages.
- **Its Safer**
  Solid concrete has an ultimate compressive strength far greater than any other form of foundation. It acts as a natural barrier against such natural disasters like tornadoes or floods.

- **Its Fireproof**
  Statistics show one-third of all home fires start in the basement. That's why it's so important that a concrete basement has zero flame spread — it will not support combustion.
- **Its Durable**
  A concrete basement is a single, solid unit with truly monolithic construction. It will withstand the test of time. Plus outlast your mortgage.
- **Its Less Porous**
  You get 40% more concrete dollar-for-dollar in a poured, solid concrete basement. That means it's denser and has fewer pores or seams for water to seep through.
- **It Has Better Resale Value**
  Because of its advantages, a solid concrete basement adds value to a home. This results in a greater return on investment at resale time.

- **Its Easily Finished**
  Solid concrete walls provide more finishing options. Some homeowners apply tiles, wallcovering or carpet directly to concrete walls. Others paint. Some use furring strips, adhesive or studs for wood paneling.
- **Its Maintenance Free**
  Clean, high-quality concrete construction allows you to spend your time and money doing what you enjoy, not working on basement problems. Solid concrete walls do not rot or support termites.

Poured-In-Place Concrete vs Block Walls

Is the difference really important? Yes!

While both poured-in-place and block construction methods can provide you with a foundation, poured-in-place walls have an advantage over block in many ways:

- Block walls have joints and seams that can allow water infiltration, drafts, mold, and insects inside the structure.
- Block walls are more prone to bowing, leaking and structural damage.
- Block walls are hollow, not solid, and may still require concrete be pumped inside for additional strength required to meet building codes.
- Block walls take more time to erect, increasing labor expense, project costs and overall construction time.
- Block walls require specialized crews that may be readily available when you need them.

Concrete is a better way to build!