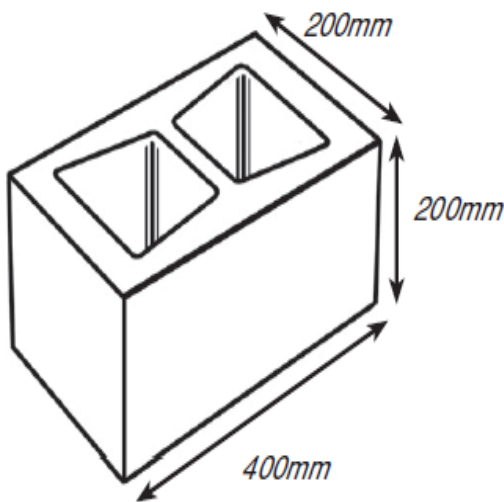


CONCRETE BLOCKS

Buildings are constructed with various sizes and kinds of concrete blocks that can be hollow or solid. The different types of blocks are made with heavyweight or lightweight materials and are normally referred to as such.

Actual and Nominal Sizes.

Most standard blocks are 400 mm long and 200mm high



The most common width is also 200mm — but blocks that are 150mm and 250mm wide are sometimes made.

Typical Sizes and Shapes.

Blocks come in both heavyweight and lightweight materials with full- and half-length sizes. The three-core block can also be obtained as two-core blocks. Figure 1, illustrates some of the typical sizes and shapes of concrete blocks.

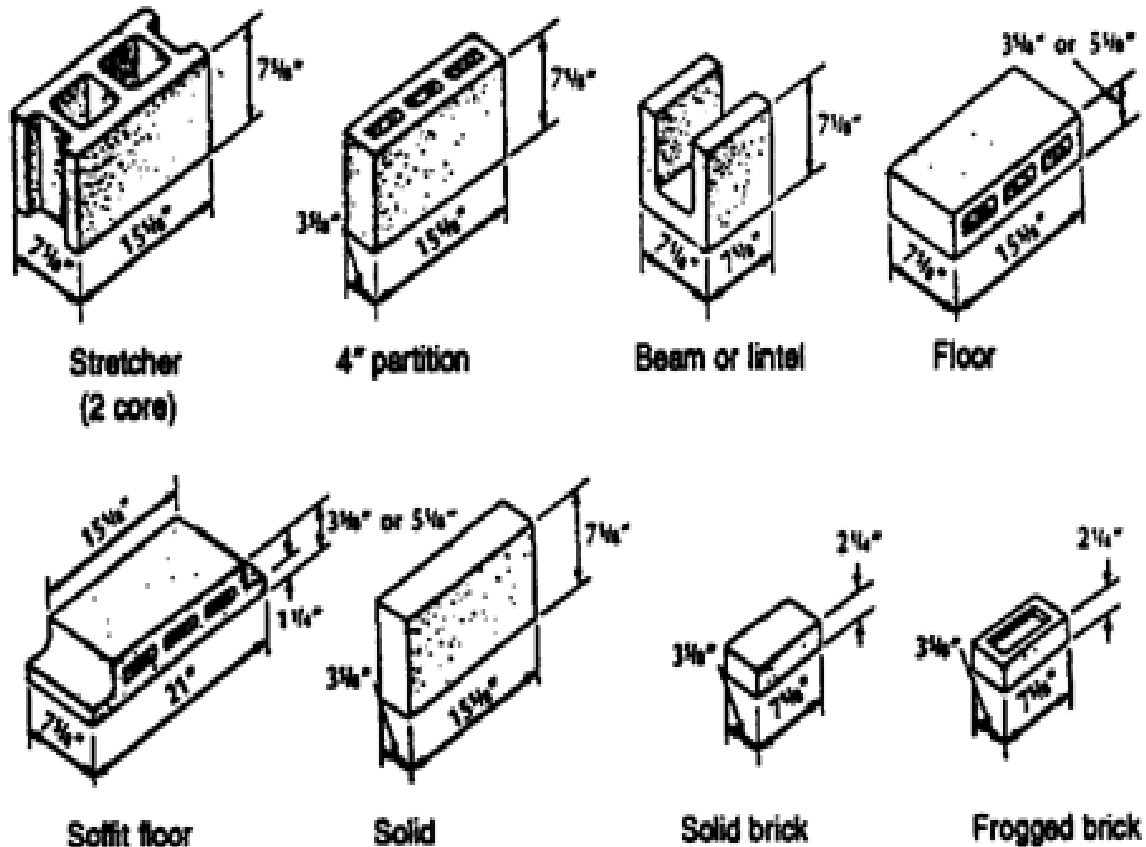


Fig: 1 Typical Size and Shape of Block

Types.

Concrete blocks come in several different types.

a. Stretcher. A stretcher block is the most commonly used block in construction. It is laid with its length parallel to the face of the wall.

b. Corner. A corner block is used for corners at simple window and door openings.

c. Double Corner or Pier. A double-corner or pier block is used for constructing piers pilasters or for any other purpose where both ends of the block would be visible.

d. Bull Nose. A bull-nose block serves the same purpose as a corner block, but it is used where round corners are desired.

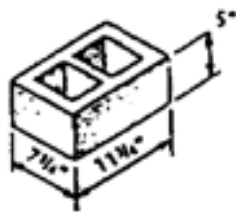
e. Most Common Block. The most common concrete block is the hollow, load-bearing stretcher block, which is 8 by 8 by 16 inches nominal size, but 7 5/8 by 7 5/8 by 15 5/8 inches actual size. The heavyweight load-bearing stretcher block weighs from 40 to 50 pounds.

Advantages

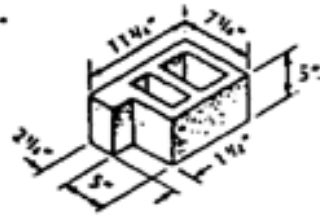
- Readily available product
- Good thermal and sound resistance
- High fire resistance
- Can be reinforced to increase lateral resistance against earthquakes and typhoons
- 20+ years lifespan
- Not attacked by rot and insect

Disadvantages

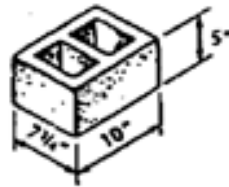
- Blocks are heavy
- Costly



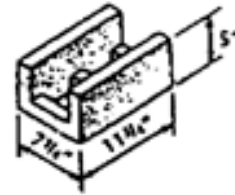
Stretcher



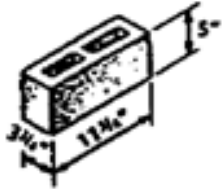
Jamb



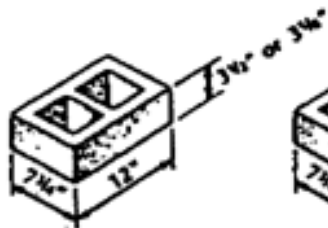
Corner



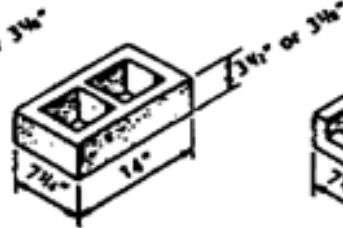
Trough



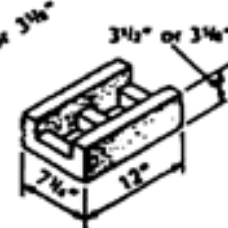
Partition



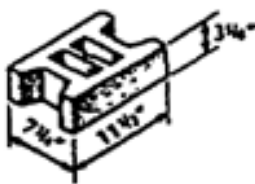
Stretcher



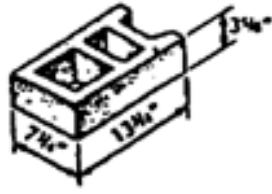
Corner



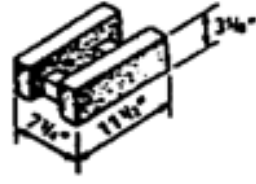
Channel



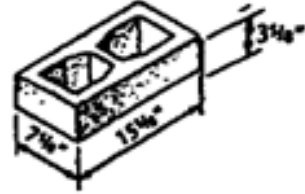
Stretcher



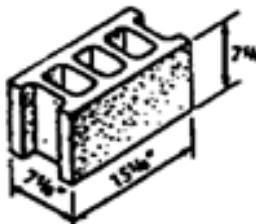
Corner



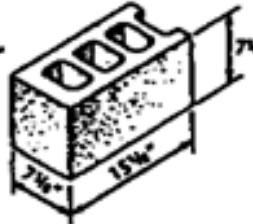
Channel



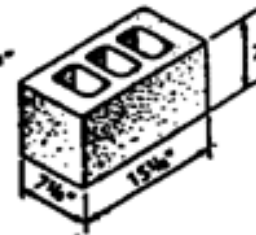
Stretcher (modular)



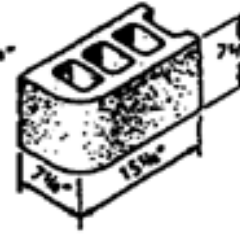
Stretcher (3 core)



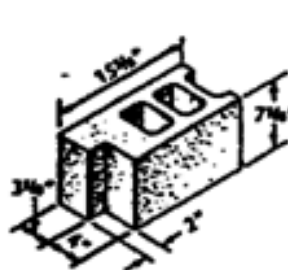
Corner



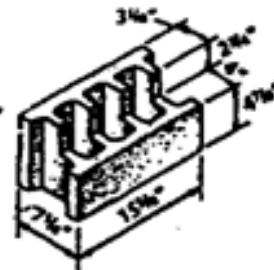
Double corner or pier



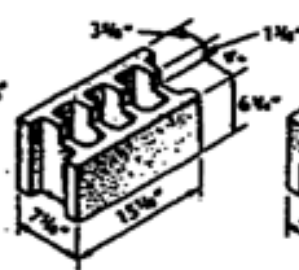
Bull nose



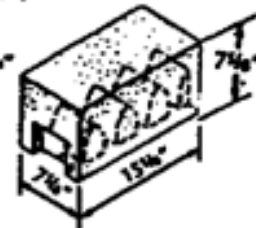
Jamb



Full-cut header



Half-cut header



Solid top

