1 / 12 · Footings and Foundations

Sizing a footing: what is the order of lookups?

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2 / 12 · Footings and Foundations

No soil test on site. What soil value can the inspector use?

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3 / 12 · Footings and Foundations

Where does the local frost depth come from?

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Name two ways to give a footing frost protection other than going below the frost line.

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Why do the footing tables give a brick veneer or solid masonry house a bigger footing than light frame?

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6 / 12 · Footings and Foundations

A footing on a sloping lot: when must it be stepped, and what do you check?

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The presumptive load-bearing value for the soil class in Table R401.4.1. The AHJ can require a test where soil is doubtful, such as fill, expansive clay or organic soil.

IRC 2024 R401.4, Table R401.4.1

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Soil value first, then the building (stories and construction type), then the R403.1 footing table, then depth and frost protection.

IRC 2024 R401.4, R403.1, R403.1.4

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A frost-protected shallow foundation (R403.3), or bearing on solid rock. R403.1.4.1 lists the options.

IRC 2024 R403.1.4.1, R403.3

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Table R301.2, where the jurisdiction fills it in. It is not one national number.

IRC 2024 Table R301.2; R403.1.4.1

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When its bottom would slope more than R403.1.5 allows. Each step then bears on level ground. Check the trench bottom, not the top of the form.

IRC 2024 R403.1.5

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Heavier walls put more load on the soil, so the minimum width and thickness go up.

IRC 2024 R403.1

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A footing sits near the edge of a slope. Which section?

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Expansive soils, wood foundations, precast concrete foundations: where?

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A column bears on a footing. What is the inspector's main check?

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10 / 12 · Footings and Foundations

A concrete foundation wall table needs which three facts from the field?

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Sill plate anchor bolts: what are the checks?

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Before checking foundation anchorage, what should you look up in Table R301.2?

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Expansive soils R403.1.8. Wood foundations R401.1, R403.2 and R404.2. Precast concrete R403.4 and R404.5.

IRC 2024 R403.1.8, R403.2, R403.4, R404.2, R404.5

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R403.1.7, because the soil in front of the footing could give way.

IRC 2024 R403.1.7

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Wall height, height of unbalanced backfill, and soil class.

IRC 2024 R404.1

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Restraint at the base so the column cannot slide off, plus the beam connection at the top. A wood column on concrete also brings in decay protection (R304).

IRC 2024 R407; R304

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The seismic design category. Higher categories add anchorage rules.

IRC 2024 Table R301.2; R403.1.6

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Bolt size, embedment and spacing; a bolt near each end of every plate piece; washers and nuts on before framing covers them. Straps, where used, go in to their instructions.

IRC 2024 R403.1.6

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