



## Advice Note

### Weep Holes | April 2024

**A weep hole provides a means of draining water that may have become trapped in a core of an extruded hollowcore slab. Weep holes may be present in each of the cores or individual cores and may be formed via drilling from the underside when the concrete has cured or drilled from the top of the slab whilst the concrete is still green or cured.**



**Photo top/bottom –**  
Weepholes being drilled from below

During the cutting process water / slurry can be present in the core and this will be dispersed during the stripping process or will evaporate when the unit is in the stock yard or dispersed during delivery.

If solid ends are specified or if a cast-in lifting pin is inserted in the core, then water may become trapped in the core as the core is blocked with a plug of concrete which prevents the free drainage of water. For this reason, weep holes are specified when these details are adopted.

After installation of the units, the weep holes can become blocked with debris being washed through the units and it is the contractors' responsibility to ensure that the weep holes are free of debris.

The risk is that if a weep hole is blocked the core can fill up with water and this can migrate through the unit and manifest itself as a damp patch on the ceiling which may require remedial action.

The need for details that require a weep hole should be considered and if not necessary, omitted. For example, the shear capacity in a hollowcore slab is greater than the applied load in the typical buildings that they are used in.

There are other forms of producing hollowcore floors that are manufactured using a wet cast process whereby the core is formed by casting around insulation. These types of products do not require weep holes as the insulation prevents the ingress of water.

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