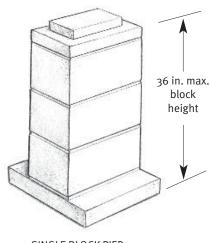


Piers set on square footers or pads on the ground spread the load from a pier over a larger area. making a more stable base. The square pad footers may be concrete, either poured in place or precast, preservative-treated wood, acrylonitrile butadiene styrene (ABS), or other materials approved by the local building authority. The spacing of the piers and the allowable bearing capacity of the soil determine the size of the footer or pad. The piers are typically spaced from 5-10 ft apart depending on home design, local soil characteristics, and roof snow load.

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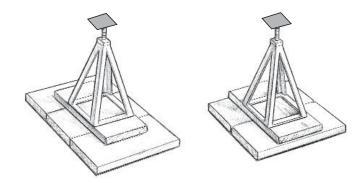


SINGLE BLOCK PIER

Figure 3.3. Common configuration of concrete block piers.

The allowable bearing capacity of the soil is a measure of its strength and ability to carry the weight of the pier without settling or compressing. Soil bearing capacity, measured by a penetrometer or other methods and expressed in units of pounds per square foot, is generally classified in the range of 1500–4500 psf soil (see Characteristics of major soil types on page 2.2).

Pads for piers should be set on compacted or undisturbed (not loosened by digging or-plowing) soil. Organic or loose matter, such as weeds, trash, and other objects, must be cleared away and then the area for the pad scrap



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Figure 3.4. Triple and double pad footings.

must be cleared away and then the area for the pad scraped until solid, undisturbed soil is exposed. If this is not done, uneven settlement can occur.

NOTES:

FOOTING OPTIONS

DESIGNED BY OTHERS HAVING MINIMUM DIMENSIONS INDICATED ON SHEET 4

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