

Thank you for your interest in and consideration of using our product, the POCKET FORM ISOLATOR®. [This Data Sheet reflects standards applicable for all Pocket Form Isolator products.](#)



POCKET FORM ISOLATOR® is a formwork system that stays in place and becomes an integral part of a building structure. In PFI®'s typical application, the columns are supported by individual concrete footings. The isolation pockets are located at the bases of the columns and provide protection from moisture migration and its harmful effects on the anchor bolts, grout bed, base plate, and lower segments of the column. Another function of isolation pockets is to provide a terminus for slab construction or control joints. Many engineers also utilize the weight advantage of a concrete-filled isolation pocket as an additional source of dead load to resist the wind uplift forces, because concrete weighs considerably more than soil or gravel. Isolation pockets are imperative in the long life of a building structure for the reasons shown herein and to allow an inspection portal if future problems occur.

In summary, isolation pockets are beneficial for several reasons to a wide variety of building structure types. When design professionals specify the use of isolation pockets, their design documents typically show plan and section views of what they expect to be performed by the contractor or sub-contractors doing the concrete flatwork.

#### **STAY-IN-PLACE HDPE FORMWORK SYSTEM:**

POCKET FORM ISOLATOR® provides a simple and consistent method to create a perfect isolation pocket without compromising any of the expectations of an isolation pocket. The use of PFI® also enables workers to build an improved structure in an abbreviated time span, due to the inherent simplicity of the system and installation methods. [\*\*All PFI® products are fabricated in-house and delivered job site ready for installation.\*\*](#) Increased sequencing flexibility is another benefit of the system because the form size is not dependent on schedule – as is often the case with temporary formwork and bracing.

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**SAFETY WITH PENETRATIONS**

It is not uncommon for a project to include numerous penetrations into the isolation pockets. These penetrations may be for conduits needed for electrical, communication, or security wires. Penetrations may also be necessary for plumbing pipes in any number of situations. Large-diameter pipes are also sometimes required for interior roof drainage. Whenever an isolation pocket is formed using temporary forming methods, penetration is compromised when the temporary form material is removed. Since penetrations in POCKET FORM ISOLATOR® are easily made using ordinary woodworking tools and the PFI® is never removed – the penetration is never disturbed.

**NO EXPANSION JOINT MATERIAL REQUIRED**

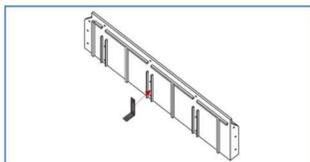
POCKET FORM ISOLATOR® eliminates the need for expansion material strips to be installed around the top edges of isolation pockets – because the PFI® provides all the necessary separations between the two volumes of concrete – even when both are cast simultaneously!

**ZIP-STRIP COMPATIBILITY**

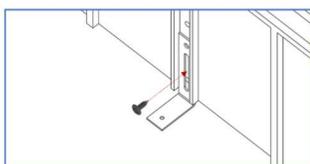
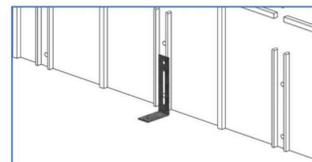
Many projects require a caulk joint separating the concrete slab from the concrete infill of the isolation pocket, and PFI® makes this extremely easy to accomplish. Simply attach ZIP-STRIP® “Void-Cap” or another similar product atop the edges of any PFI® configuration and set the unit at an elevation that brings the top surface of the “Void-Cap” to be at Finish Floor Elevation (FFE).

**ANCHORAGE TO FOOTINGS**

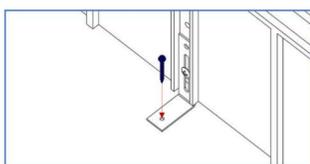
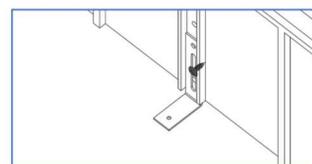
Locking Lift Bracket (LLB) Installation Instructions



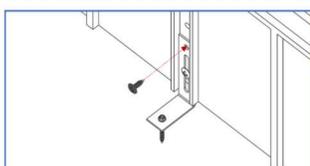
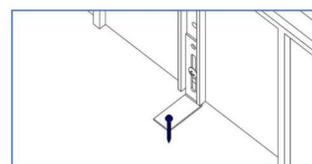
**Step 1**  
Align LLB within LLB guide channel, if available, or along one of the vertical ribs. Please refer to the **ATTACHED** [Order Hardware Sheet] for the required number of LLB's to install per part.



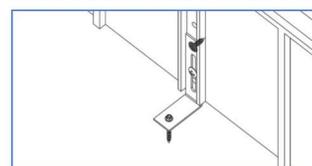
**Step 2**  
Index LLB to extend ¼” – ½” below the bottom edge of the PFI. Install #14-10 x ¾” self-tapping screw into the milled slot of the LLB until hand tight.



**Step 3**  
Install Tapcon screw into bottom of LLB and secure to concrete footing.



**Step 4**  
Level the Pocket Form Isolator to grade – loosen leveling screw a quarter turn if necessary, to allow leveling. Secure the PFI in place with by installing the second #14-10 x ¾” self-tapping screw. Tighten all screws to 90 lbf/in<sup>2</sup>



### CAST CONCRETE CONVENIENCE

There is never any compromise when PFI® is utilized! Since PFI® is manufactured using recycled plastic (HDPE), it prevents waste by diverting otherwise suitable discarded plastic items to an inert application such as forming concrete. This reduces the waste of our precious wood resources and promotes the use of recyclable products in their place. In some other cases, PFI® prevents the use of environmentally harmful products (such as Styrofoam®) that must be discarded after their removal. There is no form removal with PFI®.

### ANCHORAGE AT SLAB EDGES

If a partial pocket is utilized at the perimeter of a slab, one of two methods of anchorage must be utilized. In the case of a permanent form closing the slab's edge, Sheet Metal Extensions (SME) must be utilized to anchor the extreme ends to the permanent form. The SMEs shall be attached using permanent fasteners driven in a direction toward the building's exterior. Note: a permanent form may be a CMU (concrete masonry unit) wall, a tilt-up wall, a CIP (cast-in-place) wall, a precast concrete wall, etc. In the case of a temporary form closing the slab's edges, Sheet Metal Extensions (SME) must be utilized to anchor the extreme ends to the temporary form. The SMEs shall be attached using removable fasteners driven in a direction toward the building's interior. Note: in cases where the temporary form may not be penetrated by a fastener, "C Clamps" must be utilized to secure PFI® unit to form until sufficient (slab side) concrete has been placed to hold said unit to the temporary form in a permanent position.



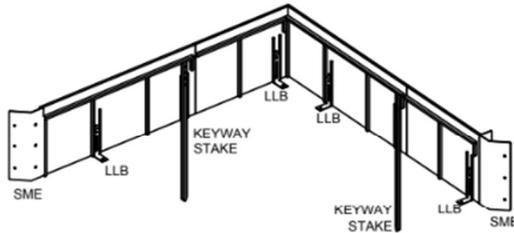
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**HARDWARE NOTES:**

FOR PFI TO WALL CONNECTIONS; WE INCLUDE FLAT SHEET METAL EXTENSIONS (SME'S) BENT BRACKETS WITH HOLES FOR BOLTS, NAILS, OR TAPCON SCREWS FOR ATTACHMENTS TO CONCRETE, MASONRY OR FORMWORK. TAPCON SCREWS ARE ALSO INCLUDED FOR EACH SME.

FOR PFI ATOP FOOTING CONNECTIONS; WE PROVIDE LIFT BRACKETS (LLB'S) WHICH ARE L-SHAPED BRACKETS 1" WIDE WHICH ALLOW FOR A SLIDING 2-1/2" (ADJUSTABLE) ATTACHMENT TO FOOTINGS. THIS ALLOWS FOR FOOTING IRREGULARITIES - WHICH OFTEN OCCUR. A SHORT BOLT, A SELF-THREADING SCREW AND A TAPCON SCREW ARE ALSO INCLUDED FOR EACH LLB.

IN SITUATIONS WHERE A BASE PLATE SITS ATCP A PIER OR PEDESTAL. THE CONTRACTOR MUST PROVIDE GALVANIZED STEEL SCREED KEYWAY STAKES. THESE STAKES SHAL BE PLACED ADJACENT TO THE SMOOTH INTERIOR FACE OF THE PFI FOR A SNUG FIT INTO SOIL AND AGAINST THR PFI'S INTERIOR FACE. SELF-THREADING WOOD SCREWS SHALL BE UTILIZED TO GO THROUGH (1) SCREED KEY STAKE AND (2) PFI-FOR A SECURE ANCHORAGE TO ACHIEVE AND MAINTAIN LEVEL ANCHORAGE.



**CAST CONCRETE APPEARANCE**

Slabs utilizing POCKET FORM ISOLATOR® have neat, clean edges around all isolation pocket openings because no forms have been stripped! Since form removal (extraction) requires the use of heavy hand tools and tough physical labor, edges of slabs where form extraction has occurred tend to have damaged edges. In addition to being unsightly, repairs to these problem areas are often only temporary, because of their small size and high vulnerability to breakage. Since PFI® provides contractors the option of casting slabs and isolation pockets simultaneously, it virtually eliminates the possibility of the slab concrete and the infill concrete from having a differing appearance.



### USE FOR INTEGRAL PIER FORMS

Many buildings utilize a pre-engineered steel structure. Often these buildings have piers above the footings that support the steel structure. These piers require protruding reinforcing bars. When forming piers with PFI®, simply backfill around the empty forms, place the protruding bars, then cast the slab and piers simultaneously.

### USE FOR REFRIGERATION PULL BOXES

Many food services and grocery stores have a need for a network of refrigeration lines to be routed below the slab. These under-slab refrigeration lines require junction boxes for connections to occur. Typically, plastic pipe raceways are inserted into the PFI® walls thru-holes that are drilled in our manufacturing facility or in the field.

Additionally, since all PFI® parts are made using HDPE plastic, there are no mold risks!

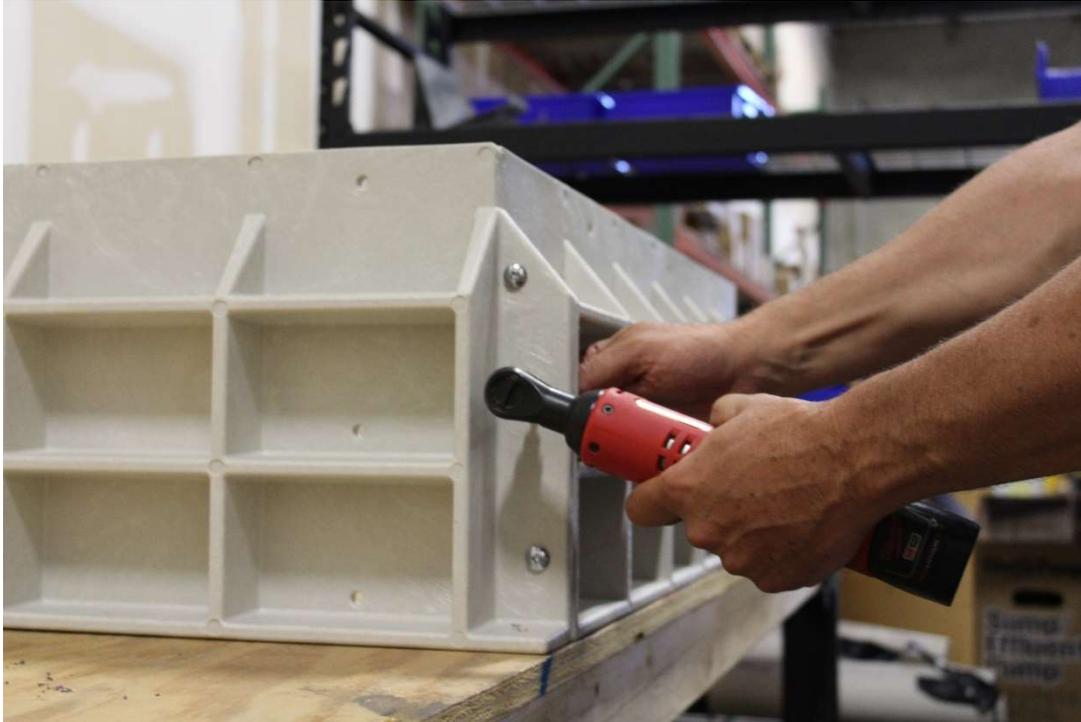
### ORANGE SAFETY LIDS

We manufacture ORANGE SAFETY LIDS for our sizes 24" square and 32" (diameter) **Arcline**. Our Safety Lids are integrally colored Orange to maintain high visibility. The lids are capable of safely supporting loads well above the posted 150 PSF load limit. Our Orange Safety Lids are flush-fitting with the top edges of our PFI® unit via support on an integral ledge formed within the walls of all screed-edge parts.



### LABOR SAVINGS

- First, PFI® units are delivered to job sites assembled as far as possible to enable economical freight charges.
- Secondly, a carpenter is not required for the assembly of these units – due to their inherent simplicity of design and assembly.
- Thirdly, and very important, these units are intended for one-time use and are never intended for removal. This stay-in-place feature is possible because PFI® is made of materials (HDPE) that will never rust or deteriorate or stain adjacent materials. HDPE is completely uninviting to termites. HDPE also does not absorb water – so there is never a problem with swelling or buckling – as with some other materials. Truly, PFI® is a product designed with the single purpose of being a stay-where-it-is-used form for concrete. It is quite uncommon for PFI® units to require bracing; however, when bracing is recommended – units are delivered with recommendations for bracing, casting, or backfilling to assist in an economical application.



#### SAFETY BENEFITS

When the contractor or sub-contractor utilizes the stay-in-place technology of the POCKET FORM ISOLATOR® product line, an automatic safety benefit is realized! Our products usually do not require field cutting – so saws are often not necessary. Field drilling for penetrations is easily accomplished without sparks, fumes, or harmful dust. And, most of all – there is no removal step required! Temporary form materials are already difficult to install, but the removal step is what always causes the most problems. When temporary form materials are removed, wasted materials are everywhere! Flying debris, trip hazards and nail-filled lumber is a very common sights after temporary forms are removed.

**REACH OUT TODAY TO REQUEST A QUOTE OR FIND OUT MORE ABOUT  
OUR PRODUCTS!**

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Please also visit our website at <https://www.pocketformisolator.com/>