

Plastic Cone or Fixed Metal Washer? Defining the Breakback on Snapties

More of the requirements for snaptie breakbacks are becoming a gray area for manufacturers such as Award Metals, Inc. The demands of the wall contractor that stack panels for residential foundations are for a tie that has a 1 1/4" diameter washer that will brace the stack panel for placement, while allowing for a "hammerblow" breakback that is quick and easy against the 1 1/4" fixed washer (fig. 1). We at AWARD have gone with the double-anvil breakback on fixed washer snapties. What this does is to give the contractor a solid face to stack against, while having a very quick break off with just a hammer.

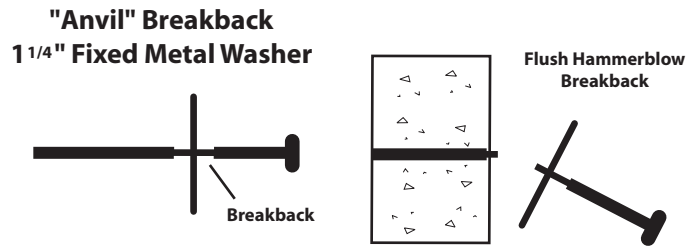


Figure 1

The drawback to this breakback is that the wire remains at the face of the concrete after the break. This does not present a problem with most residential foundations because they are buried or covered with damp proofing and not seen. This gives a functional tie that meets all the demands of the wall contractors forming system and is not detrimental to the finished or solid wall.

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However . . . If the demand is for the finished wall to be “architectural” or seen above the finished grade, the tie system has to change to a “cone” or recessed tie (fig. 2). This tie has a recessed breakback that places the wire within the wall. This allows for patching and gives a uniform finish to the wall.

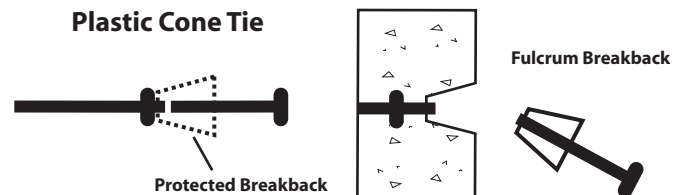


Figure 2

The conflict we face is whether we manufacture a tie based on the needs of the forming system or for the looks of the wall. We have chosen to make our fixed washer tie to meet the demands of the residential forming systems, and if the demand is for a finished wall, we recommend and sell a recessed plastic cone tie.



Metal Products For The Construction Industry