Pile cap or base assembly – step by step guide

1. Position pile cap cage to line and level.
2. Fix spacers to establish and maintain specified concrete cover. Fix sufficient spacers to avoid unit deflection under load from loose backfill.
3. Using the Pecafil® schedule, sent with the load, identify the marked units for the cap and base and place against the spacers.
4. Mark the beam outline on the side of the cap or base assembly, as drawn, ready to form openings for beams.
5. Cut down centre line and across soffit line of beam. Form “inverted T” fold out ‘doors’, ready to accept the Pecafil® beam units.
6. Select preformed Pecafil® beam units and place inside the prepared open ‘doors’. No taping or tying of joints is required.

Typical spacer arrangement – will vary by depth of cap/base and ground conditions.
Spacer centres to be adjusted as required to maintain specified concrete cover. Spacers to be staggered, as shown where practical.

Pecafil® recommendation:
We recommend all pile caps/bases deeper than 1650mm should be constructed with Pecafil® VR8 material. Pecafil® VR8 has larger diameter vertical wires which are more capable of resisting the mass of backfill material for deep caps/bases. Additional strength can be derived from the use of “L” section units. The fold at the base of the assembly will provide more rigidity and ability to resist the mass of backfill at depth. It will also be possible to pin the units to the sub-base for additional stability if required.

Typical spacer arrangements
Pecafil® recommendation:
Maximum Pecafil® spacer centres 500mm

Installation – PPE and tools

Recommended PPE
- Waterproof marker pen
- Retractable blade craft knife
- Measuring tape
- Rigger gloves

Recommended tools
- Bolt cutters (600mm)
Recommended cap/base – beam connection

**Recommended construction sequence for r.c. ground beams**

1. Pull trench & trim base with building sand.
2. Place "U" section units and Max Frank fibre concrete triangular bar spacers, installed longitudinally & staggered in 330mm long pieces.
3. Place rebar cage into beam units. Fix Pecafil® plastic side spacers to reinforcement cage above ground.
4. Check line and level of beam. Place loose backfill within 50mm of finished concrete level. Keep foot traffic and vehicles well clear of foundations under construction.

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**Typical "U" section beam unit installation**

- **External corner with pile**
  - Tie trimmer
- **External corner, no pile**
  - Tie trimmer
  - Cut base locally
- **Pile intrusion**
  - Tie trimmer
  - Cut side and fold

**Recommended spacers: Max Frank fibre concrete triangular bar spacers**

**Side strip beam installation**

1. Pull trench and place concrete blinding.
3. Fix beam rebar cage to line and level. Fix Pecafil® plastic side spacers to reinforcement cage above ground.
4. Apply Pecafil® side strip units against spacers. Place loose backfill within 50mm of finished concrete level. Keep foot traffic and vehicles well clear of foundations under construction.

**Typical side strip beam spacer arrangement**

**Pecafil® plastic side spacers**