

Over the years I have built a number of houses, timber frame and boards, brick veneer, pre-fabricated steel and steel welded in-situ.

I have recently completed the first stage of a house-building project using the Eco-block ICF system.

Compared to other forms of construction the Eco-block system is remarkable in the speed with which the basic structure goes together and the accuracy of the block assembly. In under 3 days, working in foul weather, three of us constructed the walls and gables of an 88 square metre building, which included the fitting of all door and window frames as well as the securing of the walls to floor slab and fitting of the rafter attachments. The truing-up of the walls was simple and accurate, and the roof trusses were fitted on the fourth day.

I regret now using timber frames for the internal walls, as Eco-block would have been very much faster as well as providing much better interior acoustics. The feel of the house is rock-solid, there is a real sense of being protected from the elements and the insulating qualities of the ICF construction were immediately apparent.

An unexpected bonus was the assistance given by the NZ distributor Paul Jones. Although the system is extremely simple to build with, Paul's participation reduced the labour costs noticeably. Additionally, Paul was able to answer every question I had as we worked.

Building the first stage of the project with Eco-block has confirmed the wisdom of choosing this form of construction, and has led me to re-design the remainder of the house with Eco-block internal walls in place of timber frames.

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