



**BLACKTHORN, INC.**

Clayton, Ohio

## FIBERGLASS HOLE-FORMER GUIDE

### Introduction

In order to help you achieve a long life-span for your fiberglass hole-formers, Blackthorn has compiled a list of suggested care and maintenance guidelines. Also included is information on how extract, release, and dispose of fiberglass hole-formers.

### Care and Maintenance

If properly maintained, fiberglass hole-formers can have a long life-span. Improperly cared for, fiberglass hole-formers may have a short lifespan. In order to achieve a long life-span, make sure that your fiberglass hole-formers are off of the floor and away from any potential harm. This can be easily achieved by placing one Blackthorn square hole-former magnet in your hole-former and attaching it to a safe metal surface. Now that your hole-former is off the floor it is less likely to be thrown out of the way or run over by a forklift. Since fiberglass hole-formers can chip and crack with misuse, taking the time to store them properly can save time and money.

If your fiberglass hole-former happens to crack or chip, it can be easily repaired by cleaning the area free from all release agents and then scuffing or sanding the area with an abrasive pad or paper. You can then apply automotive repair putty. Once cured, smooth out with sandpaper.

Fiberglass hole-formers should not be stored in direct sunlight. The sun's UV rays can be harmful to the gel coat surface. If the hole-former has to be stored outside, the gel coat should be faced down or covered.

### Extraction

One of the easiest ways to extract a Blackthorn fiberglass hole-former is to use our *Mighty-Fine* Rubber Hammer. This hammer is composed of rubber-encased steel. One end of the hammer's head is flat and the other end is wedged-shaped. The wedge-shaped end is for easy use with a corner hole-former. Due to the head of the hammer being made of rubber, there is no dead-shot. Once the hammer has made contact with the hole-former it bounces back. By bouncing back, the hammer only shocks the hole-former instead of projecting through and damaging the hole-former. These rubber hammers come in two sizes: hand-held and long, sledge.

**NEVER EXTRACT WITH A STEEL HAMMER! DAMAGE WILL OCCUR!!**

### Release Agents

With the exception of collapsible hole-formers, hole-formers slide out of concrete. A continuous barrier film is the best way to give the hole-former a head start. Most concrete producers tend to coat the hole-former with whatever release agent is being used on their mold. However, liquid release agents tend to separate. For maximum service life, use of a paste release agent that is wiped onto the hole-former is recommended. This procedure will give your hole-former superior life. Vegetable shortening is a viable release agent. It is environmentally friendly, easily accessed, and inexpensive. It can be purchased in five-gallon buckets at grocery warehouses. It has no detrimental affect on the hole-former. It also makes an excellent release agent for all fiberglass forms. Pipe lube also works.

### How to dispose of Fiberglass

In its finished form, it is safe to dispose of fiberglass in your normal trash.

### Attachment Options

- **Threaded Insert** – Threaded inserts (Coil or NC) on a welded plate and epoxied to the hole-former with a section of PVC pipe used as a conduit spacer and a guide.
- **Adjustable Slide Bar** – Used to attach hole-former to jacket or core. Allows for horizontal or vertical adjustment.
- **Magnets** – Every Blackthorn hole-former comes with a hole/s for magnet attachment. Hole/s will accommodate Blackthorn's line of magnetic options.