



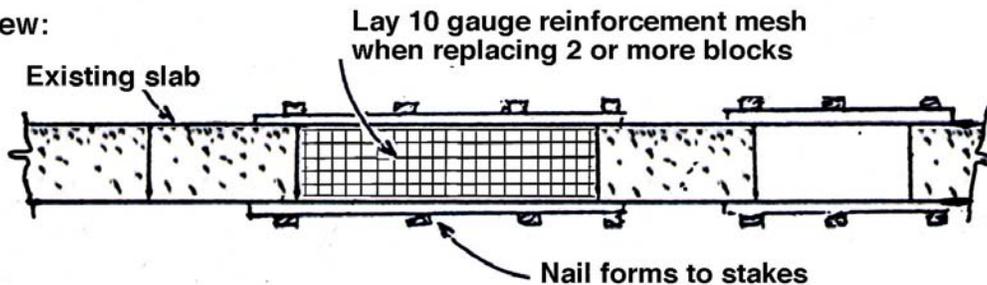
## CONCRETE FORMING

Building forms for replacement sidewalk blocks require a few wooden stakes and *straight* wood 2 x 4's to contain the wet concrete until it hardens. The wood does not have to be new, but should be strong enough to support side pressure. Attach the form boards to 2 x 2 stakes about 12" long. The form will be easier to disassemble if you connect the wood with screws; if you use nails, however, leave the head protruding from the surface so it will be easy to pull them out later.

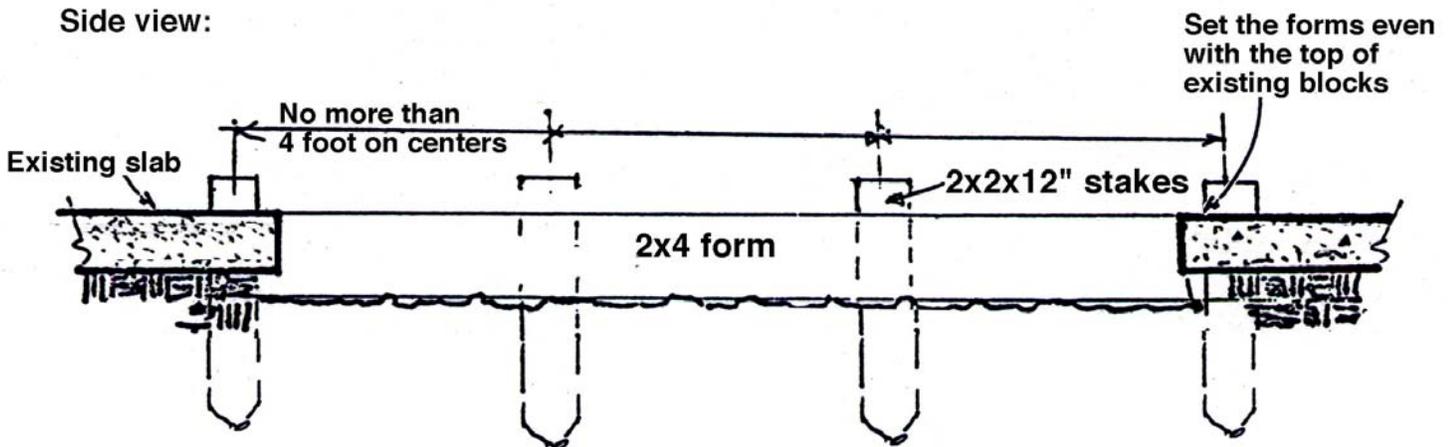
After removing the damaged sidewalk blocks, dig out enough earth so that the new concrete will be the correct depth to meet code requirements. If the earth is not solid, dig out any loose soil and add a gravel bed 3 to 4 inches deep. (If the earth is solid and has a partial sand or gravel fill, you may not need to add more gravel.) Reinforcement mesh will be needed when more than one block is being replaced. The mesh will be laid onto the gravel bed before the pour.

After preparing the site, set the forms as follows:

Top view:



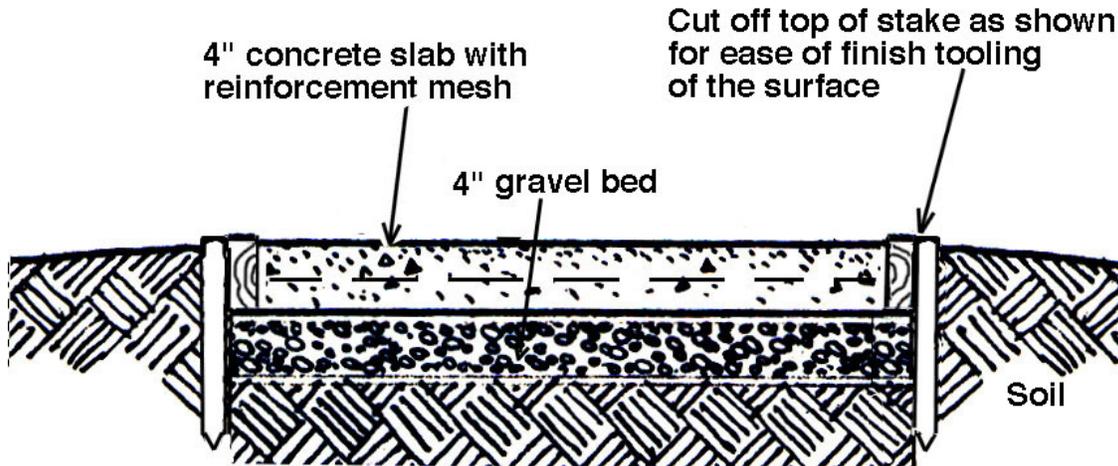
Side view:



Cut off the stakes even with the top of the forms, for ease in finishing the wet concrete.

*(continued)*

**Cross section view:**



Forming for other types of concrete installation (driveway aprons, patios, etc.) follows a similar process, but you should always check code requirements for the specific project. For example, in Cleveland Heights concrete apron blocks must be thicker than sidewalk blocks and require a curb footer to anchor the block at the street end. Check with your city's Building Department before you start.

Note that concrete replacement is a permit job. An inspector will have to approve the forms, so make sure you allow time for your preparation work to be checked *before* the concrete truck arrives for the pour.

After pouring, the concrete will need to cure for at least 24 hours before you can remove the forms, but you should leave them in place until after the final inspection.