

# Wertz Geotechnical Engineering, Summer 2020

By: Brannon Teets

## Background

Over the summer, I worked for Wertz Geotechnical Engineering located in Doylestown, Ohio. This company services much of northeast Ohio specializing in geotechnical services, construction materials testing and inspections services, and subsurface exploration and drilling. I was able to obtain this position because of the networking I have done through friends and family. I reached out to the owner of the company months before Covid-19 and the summer. I was able to secure an interview and was shortly hired after for a summer position.

## On the Job

Construction Materials Testing and Laboratory Technician Intern

I did a variety of work including geotechnical laboratory work (including concrete, mortar, grout, and rock compressive strength tests, dry preparation, particle-size analyses, standard and modified proctors, and Atterberg limits testing), as well as logging samples, entering data into databases, preparing proctor curves, and preparing compressive strength reports.

## Hydraulic Press: Tests Compressive Strength



## Lab Curing Concrete Cylinders



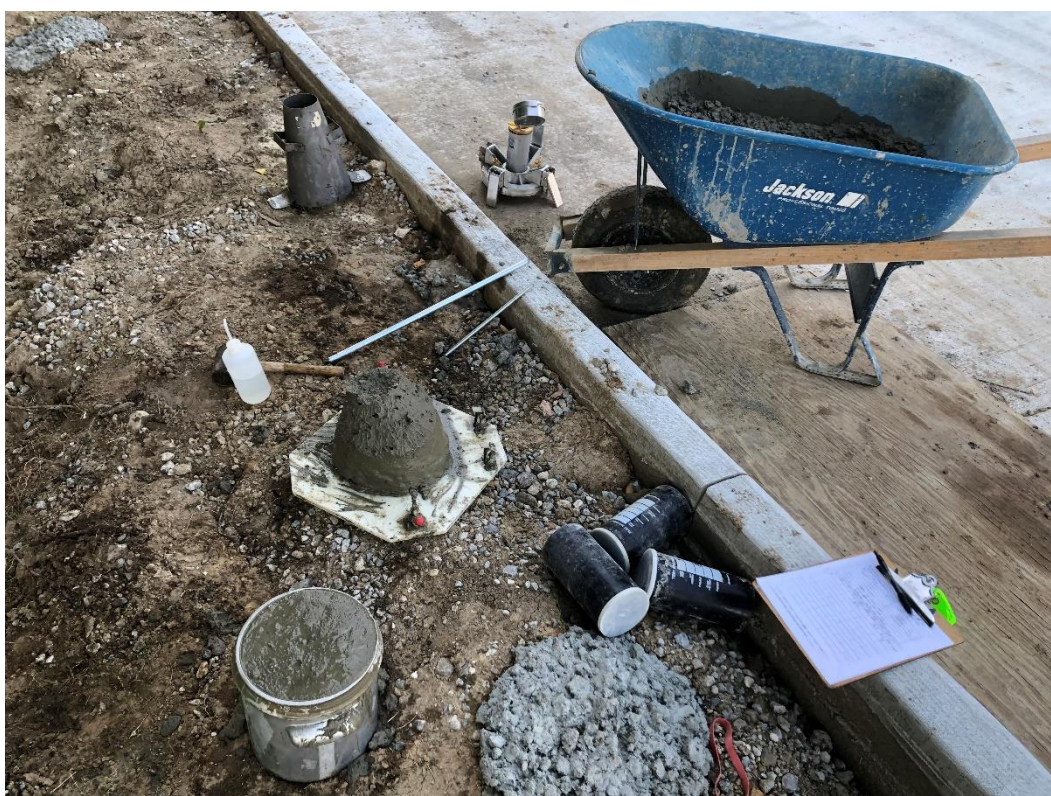
## Concrete Beam Breaker: Tests Flexural Strength



## Onsite Sidewalk Pour



## Testing Slump and Collecting Samples



## Main Duty: Preparing and Testing Concrete

The cylinders are cured in the water tanks and then tested usually for 3 days, 7 days, and 28 days after field installation to determine the concrete's compressive strength. Sometimes tests will also be carried out at 24 hours, 14 days, and/or 56 days depending on the project specifications.

## Soil Samples Drying: First Step of Proctor Test



## Onsite Drilling Service



## Reflection

Working at Wertz Geotechnical Engineering has taught me a lot and has showed me just how involved the world of construction is and the amount of money involved in something like concrete. I would never have gained this knowledge if I wasn't involved in my internship and I've gained interest in an area that I previously did not know much about. This internship has shown me the different possibilities of employment in the future.

I plan on furthering my career in this area because of the interests I have discovered while working as a laboratory technician and construction materials tester. I would recommend this experience to anyone who has an interest in the construction field or geological work.

## Drilling Service: Collected Samples from Split Soon Ready for Analysis in Lab



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<https://www.wertzgeo.com>