



Formulas
Examples
with Units

List of 28 Important Bearing Capacity of Cohesive Soil Formulas

1) Bearing Capacity Factor Dependent on Cohesion for Circular Footing Formula

Formula

$$N_c = \frac{q_f - \sigma_s}{1.3 \cdot C}$$

Example with Units

$$8.5403 = \frac{60 \text{ kPa} - 45.9 \text{ kN/m}^2}{1.3 \cdot 1.27 \text{ kPa}}$$

Evaluate Formula

2) Bearing Capacity Factor Dependent on Cohesion for Square Footing Formula

Formula

$$N_c = \frac{q_f - \sigma_s}{\left(C \cdot \left(1 + 0.3 \cdot \left(\frac{B}{L} \right) \right) \right)}$$

Example with Units

$$9.6542 = \frac{60 \text{ kPa} - 45.9 \text{ kN/m}^2}{\left(1.27 \text{ kPa} \right) \cdot \left(1 + 0.3 \cdot \left(\frac{2 \text{ m}}{4 \text{ m}} \right) \right)}$$

Evaluate Formula

3) Bearing Capacity for Circular Footing given Value of Bearing Capacity Factor Formula

Formula

$$q_f = (7.4 \cdot C) + \sigma_s$$

Example with Units

$$55.298 \text{ kPa} = (7.4 \cdot 1.27 \text{ kPa}) + 45.9 \text{ kN/m}^2$$

Evaluate Formula

4) Bearing Capacity of Cohesive Soil for Circular Footing Formula

Formula

$$q_f = \left(1.3 \cdot C \cdot N_c \right) + \sigma_s$$

Example with Units

$$60.759 \text{ kPa} = \left(1.3 \cdot 1.27 \text{ kPa} \cdot 9 \right) + 45.9 \text{ kN/m}^2$$

Evaluate Formula

5) Bearing Capacity of Cohesive Soil for Square Footing Formula

Formula

$$q_f = \left(\left(C \cdot N_c \right) \cdot \left(1 + 0.3 \cdot \left(\frac{B}{L} \right) \right) \right) + \sigma_s$$

Example with Units

$$59.0445 \text{ kPa} = \left(\left(1.27 \text{ kPa} \cdot 9 \right) \cdot \left(1 + 0.3 \cdot \left(\frac{2 \text{ m}}{4 \text{ m}} \right) \right) \right) + 45.9 \text{ kN/m}^2$$

Evaluate Formula

6) Cohesion of Soil for Circular Footing given Value of Bearing Capacity Factor Formula

Formula

$$C = \frac{q_f - \sigma_s}{7.4}$$

Example with Units

$$1.9054 \text{ kPa} = \frac{60 \text{ kPa} - 45.9 \text{ kN/m}^2}{7.4}$$

Evaluate Formula

7) Cohesion of Soil given Bearing Capacity for Circular Footing Formula

Formula

$$C = \frac{q_f - \sigma_s}{1.3 \cdot N_c}$$

Example with Units

$$1.2051 \text{ kPa} = \frac{60 \text{ kPa} - 45.9 \text{ kN/m}^2}{1.3 \cdot 9}$$

Evaluate Formula



8) Cohesion of Soil given Bearing Capacity for Square Footing Formula ↻

Formula

$$C = \frac{q_f - \sigma_s}{\left(N_c\right) \cdot \left(1 + 0.3 \cdot \left(\frac{B}{L}\right)\right)}$$

Example with Units

$$1.3623 \text{ kPa} = \frac{60 \text{ kPa} - 45.9 \text{ kN/m}^2}{(9) \cdot \left(1 + 0.3 \cdot \left(\frac{2 \text{ m}}{4 \text{ m}}\right)\right)}$$

Evaluate Formula ↻

9) Effective Surcharge for Circular Footing given Value of Bearing Capacity Factor Formula ↻

Formula

$$\sigma_s = q_f \cdot (7.4 \cdot C)$$

Example with Units

$$50.602 \text{ kN/m}^2 = 60 \text{ kPa} \cdot (7.4 \cdot 1.27 \text{ kPa})$$

Evaluate Formula ↻

10) Effective Surcharge given Bearing Capacity for Circular Footing Formula ↻

Formula

$$\sigma_s = \left(q_f - \left(1.3 \cdot C \cdot N_c\right)\right)$$

Example with Units

$$45.141 \text{ kN/m}^2 = \left(60 \text{ kPa} - \left(1.3 \cdot 1.27 \text{ kPa} \cdot 9\right)\right)$$

Evaluate Formula ↻

11) Effective Surcharge given Bearing Capacity for Square Footing Formula ↻

Formula

$$\sigma_s = q_f \cdot \left(\left(C \cdot N_c\right) \cdot \left(1 + 0.3 \cdot \left(\frac{B}{L}\right)\right)\right)$$

Example with Units

$$46.8555 \text{ kN/m}^2 = 60 \text{ kPa} \cdot \left(\left(1.27 \text{ kPa} \cdot 9\right) \cdot \left(1 + 0.3 \cdot \left(\frac{2 \text{ m}}{4 \text{ m}}\right)\right)\right)$$

Evaluate Formula ↻

12) Length of Footing given Bearing Capacity for Square Footing Formula ↻

Formula

$$L = \frac{0.3 \cdot B}{\left(\frac{q_f - \sigma_s}{C \cdot N_c}\right) - 1}$$

Example with Units

$$2.5685 \text{ m} = \frac{0.3 \cdot 2 \text{ m}}{\left(\frac{60 \text{ kPa} - 45.9 \text{ kN/m}^2}{1.27 \text{ kPa} \cdot 9}\right) - 1}$$

Evaluate Formula ↻

13) Width of Footing given Bearing Capacity for Square Footing Formula ↻

Formula

$$B = \left(\left(\frac{q_f - \sigma_s}{C \cdot N_c}\right) - 1\right) \cdot \left(\frac{L}{0.3}\right)$$

Example with Units

$$3.1146 \text{ m} = \left(\left(\frac{60 \text{ kPa} - 45.9 \text{ kN/m}^2}{1.27 \text{ kPa} \cdot 9}\right) - 1\right) \cdot \left(\frac{4 \text{ m}}{0.3}\right)$$

Evaluate Formula ↻

14) Frictional Cohesive Soil Formulas ↻

14.1) Bearing Capacity Factor Dependent on Cohesion for Rectangular Footing Formula ↻

Formula

$$N_c = \frac{q_{fc} - \left(\left(\sigma_s \cdot N_q\right) + \left(0.4 \cdot \gamma \cdot B \cdot N_\gamma\right)\right)}{\left(C\right) \cdot \left(1 + 0.3 \cdot \left(\frac{B}{L}\right)\right)}$$

Example with Units

$$8.5594 = \frac{127.8 \text{ kPa} - \left(\left(45.9 \text{ kN/m}^2 \cdot 2.01\right) + \left(0.4 \cdot 18 \text{ kN/m}^3 \cdot 2 \text{ m} \cdot 1.6\right)\right)}{\left(1.27 \text{ kPa}\right) \cdot \left(1 + 0.3 \cdot \left(\frac{2 \text{ m}}{4 \text{ m}}\right)\right)}$$

Evaluate Formula ↻



14.2) Bearing Capacity Factor Dependent on Cohesion for Rectangular Footing given Shape Factor Formula[Evaluate Formula](#)

Formula

$$N_c = \frac{q_{fc} - \left((\sigma_s \cdot N_q) + \left((0.5 \cdot \gamma \cdot B \cdot N_\gamma) \cdot \left(1 - 0.2 \cdot \left(\frac{B}{L} \right) \right) \right) \right)}{(C) \cdot \left(1 + 0.3 \cdot \left(\frac{B}{L} \right) \right)}$$

Example with Units

$$6.5875 = \frac{127.8 \text{ kPa} - \left((45.9 \text{ kN/m}^2 \cdot 2.01) + \left((0.5 \cdot 18 \text{ kN/m}^3 \cdot 2 \text{ m} \cdot 1.6) \cdot \left(1 - 0.2 \cdot \left(\frac{2 \text{ m}}{4 \text{ m}} \right) \right) \right) \right)}{(1.27 \text{ kPa}) \cdot \left(1 + 0.3 \cdot \left(\frac{2 \text{ m}}{4 \text{ m}} \right) \right)}$$

14.3) Bearing Capacity Factor Dependent on Surcharge for Rectangular Footing Formula[Evaluate Formula](#)

Formula

$$N_q = \frac{q_{fc} - \left(\left((C \cdot N_c) \cdot \left(1 + 0.3 \cdot \left(\frac{B}{L} \right) \right) \right) + (0.4 \cdot \gamma \cdot B \cdot N_\gamma) \right)}{\sigma_s}$$

Example with Units

$$1.996 = \frac{127.8 \text{ kPa} - \left(\left((1.27 \text{ kPa} \cdot 9) \cdot \left(1 + 0.3 \cdot \left(\frac{2 \text{ m}}{4 \text{ m}} \right) \right) \right) + (0.4 \cdot 18 \text{ kN/m}^3 \cdot 2 \text{ m} \cdot 1.6) \right)}{45.9 \text{ kN/m}^2}$$

14.4) Bearing Capacity Factor Dependent on Surcharge for Rectangular Footing given Shape Factor Formula[Evaluate Formula](#)

Formula

$$N_q = \frac{q_{fc} - \left(\left((C \cdot N_c) \cdot \left(1 + 0.3 \cdot \left(\frac{B}{L} \right) \right) \right) + \left((0.5 \cdot \gamma \cdot B \cdot N_\gamma) \cdot \left(1 - 0.2 \cdot \left(\frac{B}{L} \right) \right) \right) \right)}{\sigma_s}$$

Example with Units

$$1.9332 = \frac{127.8 \text{ kPa} - \left(\left((1.27 \text{ kPa} \cdot 9) \cdot \left(1 + 0.3 \cdot \left(\frac{2 \text{ m}}{4 \text{ m}} \right) \right) \right) + \left((0.5 \cdot 18 \text{ kN/m}^3 \cdot 2 \text{ m} \cdot 1.6) \cdot \left(1 - 0.2 \cdot \left(\frac{2 \text{ m}}{4 \text{ m}} \right) \right) \right) \right)}{45.9 \text{ kN/m}^2}$$

14.5) Bearing Capacity Factor Dependent on Unit Weight for Rectangular Footing Formula[Evaluate Formula](#)

Formula

$$N_\gamma = \frac{q_{fc} - \left(\left((C \cdot N_c) \cdot \left(1 + 0.3 \cdot \left(\frac{B}{L} \right) \right) \right) + (\sigma_s \cdot N_q) \right)}{0.4 \cdot B \cdot \gamma}$$

Example with Units

$$1.5553 = \frac{127.8 \text{ kPa} - \left(\left((1.27 \text{ kPa} \cdot 9) \cdot \left(1 + 0.3 \cdot \left(\frac{2 \text{ m}}{4 \text{ m}} \right) \right) \right) + (45.9 \text{ kN/m}^2 \cdot 2.01) \right)}{0.4 \cdot 2 \text{ m} \cdot 18 \text{ kN/m}^3}$$



14.6) Bearing Capacity Factor Dependent on Weight for Rectangular Footing given Shape Factor Formula

Evaluate Formula 

Formula

$$N_{\gamma} = \frac{q_{fc} - \left(\left((C \cdot N_c) \cdot \left(1 + 0.3 \cdot \left(\frac{B}{L} \right) \right) \right) + \left(\sigma_s \cdot N_q \right) \right)}{\left(0.5 \cdot B \cdot \gamma \right) \cdot \left(1 - 0.2 \cdot \left(\frac{B}{L} \right) \right)}$$

Example with Units

$$1.3825 = \frac{127.8 \text{ kPa} - \left(\left((1.27 \text{ kPa} \cdot 9) \cdot \left(1 + 0.3 \cdot \left(\frac{2 \text{ m}}{4 \text{ m}} \right) \right) \right) + (45.9 \text{ kN/m}^2 \cdot 2.01) \right)}{\left(0.5 \cdot 2 \text{ m} \cdot 18 \text{ kN/m}^3 \right) \cdot \left(1 - 0.2 \cdot \left(\frac{2 \text{ m}}{4 \text{ m}} \right) \right)}$$

14.7) Cohesion of Soil for Rectangular Footing given Shape Factor Formula

Evaluate Formula 

Formula

$$C = \frac{q_{fc} - \left(\left(\sigma_s \cdot N_q \right) + \left(\left(0.5 \cdot \gamma \cdot B \cdot N_{\gamma} \right) \cdot \left(1 - 0.2 \cdot \left(\frac{B}{L} \right) \right) \right) \right)}{\left(N_c \right) \cdot \left(1 + 0.3 \cdot \left(\frac{B}{L} \right) \right)}$$

Example with Units

$$0.9296 \text{ kPa} = \frac{127.8 \text{ kPa} - \left((45.9 \text{ kN/m}^2 \cdot 2.01) + \left(0.5 \cdot 18 \text{ kN/m}^3 \cdot 2 \text{ m} \cdot 1.6 \right) \cdot \left(1 - 0.2 \cdot \left(\frac{2 \text{ m}}{4 \text{ m}} \right) \right) \right)}{(9) \cdot \left(1 + 0.3 \cdot \left(\frac{2 \text{ m}}{4 \text{ m}} \right) \right)}$$

14.8) Cohesion of Soil given Ultimate Bearing Capacity for Rectangular Footing Formula

Evaluate Formula 

Formula

$$C = \frac{q_{fc} - \left(\left(\sigma_s \cdot N_q \right) + \left(0.4 \cdot \gamma \cdot B \cdot N_{\gamma} \right) \right)}{\left(N_c \right) \cdot \left(1 + 0.3 \cdot \left(\frac{B}{L} \right) \right)}$$

Example with Units

$$1.2078 \text{ kPa} = \frac{127.8 \text{ kPa} - \left((45.9 \text{ kN/m}^2 \cdot 2.01) + (0.4 \cdot 18 \text{ kN/m}^3 \cdot 2 \text{ m} \cdot 1.6) \right)}{(9) \cdot \left(1 + 0.3 \cdot \left(\frac{2 \text{ m}}{4 \text{ m}} \right) \right)}$$

14.9) Effective Surcharge for Rectangular Footing Formula

Evaluate Formula 

Formula

$$\sigma_s = \frac{q_{fc} - \left(\left((C \cdot N_c) \cdot \left(1 + 0.3 \cdot \left(\frac{B}{L} \right) \right) \right) + \left(0.4 \cdot \gamma \cdot B \cdot N_{\gamma} \right) \right)}{N_q}$$

Example with Units

$$45.5799 \text{ kN/m}^2 = \frac{127.8 \text{ kPa} - \left(\left((1.27 \text{ kPa} \cdot 9) \cdot \left(1 + 0.3 \cdot \left(\frac{2 \text{ m}}{4 \text{ m}} \right) \right) \right) + (0.4 \cdot 18 \text{ kN/m}^3 \cdot 2 \text{ m} \cdot 1.6) \right)}{2.01}$$



14.10) Effective Surcharge for Rectangular Footing given Shape Factor Formula

Formula

Evaluate Formula 

$$\sigma_s = \frac{q_{fc} - \left(\left(C \cdot N_c \right) \cdot \left(1 + 0.3 \cdot \left(\frac{B}{L} \right) \right) \right) + \left(\left(0.5 \cdot \gamma \cdot B \cdot N_\gamma \right) \cdot \left(1 - 0.2 \cdot \left(\frac{B}{L} \right) \right) \right)}{N_q}$$

Example with Units

$$44.147 \text{ kN/m}^2 = \frac{127.8 \text{ kPa} - \left(\left(1.27 \text{ kPa} \cdot 9 \right) \cdot \left(1 + 0.3 \cdot \left(\frac{2 \text{ m}}{4 \text{ m}} \right) \right) \right) + \left(\left(0.5 \cdot 18 \text{ kN/m}^3 \cdot 2 \text{ m} \cdot 1.6 \right) \cdot \left(1 - 0.2 \cdot \left(\frac{2 \text{ m}}{4 \text{ m}} \right) \right) \right)}{2.01}$$

14.11) Length of Rectangular Footing given Ultimate Bearing Capacity Formula

Formula

Evaluate Formula 

$$L = \frac{0.3 \cdot B}{\left(\frac{q_{fc} - \left(\left(\sigma_s \cdot N_q \right) + \left(0.4 \cdot \gamma \cdot B \cdot N_\gamma \right) \right)}{C \cdot N_c} \right) - 1}$$

Example with Units

$$6.4034 \text{ m} = \frac{0.3 \cdot 2 \text{ m}}{\left(\frac{127.8 \text{ kPa} - \left(\left(45.9 \text{ kN/m}^2 \cdot 2.01 \right) + \left(0.4 \cdot 18 \text{ kN/m}^3 \cdot 2 \text{ m} \cdot 1.6 \right) \right)}{1.27 \text{ kPa} \cdot 9} \right) - 1}$$

14.12) Ultimate Bearing Capacity for Rectangular Footing Formula

Formula

Evaluate Formula 

$$q_{fc} = \left(\left(C \cdot N_c \right) \cdot \left(1 + 0.3 \cdot \left(\frac{B}{L} \right) \right) \right) + \left(\sigma_s \cdot N_q \right) + \left(0.4 \cdot \gamma \cdot B \cdot N_\gamma \right)$$

Example with Units

$$128.4435 \text{ kPa} = \left(\left(1.27 \text{ kPa} \cdot 9 \right) \cdot \left(1 + 0.3 \cdot \left(\frac{2 \text{ m}}{4 \text{ m}} \right) \right) \right) + \left(45.9 \text{ kN/m}^2 \cdot 2.01 \right) + \left(0.4 \cdot 18 \text{ kN/m}^3 \cdot 2 \text{ m} \cdot 1.6 \right)$$

14.13) Ultimate Bearing Capacity for Rectangular Footing given Shape Factor Formula

Formula

Evaluate Formula 

$$q_{fc} = \left(\left(C \cdot N_c \right) \cdot \left(1 + 0.3 \cdot \left(\frac{B}{L} \right) \right) \right) + \left(\sigma_s \cdot N_q \right) + \left(\left(0.5 \cdot \gamma \cdot B \cdot N_\gamma \right) \cdot \left(1 - 0.2 \cdot \left(\frac{B}{L} \right) \right) \right)$$

Example with Units

$$131.3235 \text{ kPa} = \left(\left(1.27 \text{ kPa} \cdot 9 \right) \cdot \left(1 + 0.3 \cdot \left(\frac{2 \text{ m}}{4 \text{ m}} \right) \right) \right) + \left(45.9 \text{ kN/m}^2 \cdot 2.01 \right) + \left(\left(0.5 \cdot 18 \text{ kN/m}^3 \cdot 2 \text{ m} \cdot 1.6 \right) \cdot \left(1 - 0.2 \cdot \left(\frac{2 \text{ m}}{4 \text{ m}} \right) \right) \right)$$



14.14) Unit Weight of Soil for Rectangular Footing given Shape Factor Formula

Evaluate Formula 

Formula

$$\gamma = \frac{q_{fc} - \left(\left((C \cdot N_c) \cdot \left(1 + 0.3 \cdot \left(\frac{B}{L} \right) \right) \right) + (\sigma_s \cdot N_q) \right)}{(0.5 \cdot B \cdot N_\gamma) \cdot \left(1 - 0.2 \cdot \left(\frac{B}{L} \right) \right)}$$

Example with Units

$$15.5531 \text{ kN/m}^3 = \frac{127.8 \text{ kPa} - \left(\left((1.27 \text{ kPa} \cdot 9) \cdot \left(1 + 0.3 \cdot \left(\frac{2 \text{ m}}{4 \text{ m}} \right) \right) \right) + (45.9 \text{ kN/m}^2 \cdot 2.01) \right)}{(0.5 \cdot 2 \text{ m} \cdot 1.6) \cdot \left(1 - 0.2 \cdot \left(\frac{2 \text{ m}}{4 \text{ m}} \right) \right)}$$

14.15) Unit Weight of Soil given Ultimate Bearing Capacity for Rectangular Footing Formula

Evaluate Formula 

Formula

$$\gamma = \frac{q_{fc} - \left(\left((C \cdot N_c) \cdot \left(1 + 0.3 \cdot \left(\frac{B}{L} \right) \right) \right) + (\sigma_s \cdot N_q) \right)}{0.4 \cdot B \cdot N_\gamma}$$

Example with Units




$$17.4973 \text{ kN/m}^3 = \frac{127.8 \text{ kPa} - \left(\left((1.27 \text{ kPa} \cdot 9) \cdot \left(1 + 0.3 \cdot \left(\frac{2 \text{ m}}{4 \text{ m}} \right) \right) \right) + (45.9 \text{ kN/m}^2 \cdot 2.01) \right)}{0.4 \cdot 2 \text{ m} \cdot 1.6}$$



Variables used in list of Bearing Capacity of Cohesive Soil Formulas above


- **B** Width of Footing (*Meter*)
- **C** Cohesion in Soil as Kilopascal (*Kilopascal*)
- **L** Length of Footing (*Meter*)
- **N_c** Bearing Capacity Factor dependent on Cohesion
- **N_q** Bearing Capacity Factor dependent on Surcharge
- **N_γ** Bearing Capacity Factor dependent on Unit Weight
- **q_f** Ultimate Bearing Capacity (*Kilopascal*)
- **q_{fc}** Ultimate Bearing Capacity in Soil (*Kilopascal*)
- **γ** Unit Weight of Soil (*Kilonewton per Cubic Meter*)
- **σ_s** Effective Surcharge in KiloPascal (*Kilonewton per Square Meter*)

Constants, Functions, Measurements used in list of Bearing Capacity of Cohesive Soil Formulas above

- **Measurement: Length** in Meter (m)
Length Unit Conversion 
- **Measurement: Pressure** in Kilopascal (kPa), Kilonewton per Square Meter (kN/m²)
Pressure Unit Conversion 
- **Measurement: Specific Weight** in Kilonewton per Cubic Meter (kN/m³)
Specific Weight Unit Conversion 



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