

# Important Dams and Reservoirs Formulas PDF



**Formulas**  
**Examples**  
**with Units**

**List of 15**  
**Important Dams and Reservoirs Formulas**

## 1) Forces acting on Gravity Dam Formulas

### 1.1) Force Exerted by Silt in Addition to External Water Pressure represented by Rankine's Formula Formula

Formula

$$P_{\text{silt}} = \left(\frac{1}{2}\right) \cdot \Gamma_s \cdot (h^2) \cdot K_a$$

Example with Units

$$153 \text{ kN/m}^2 = \left(\frac{1}{2}\right) \cdot 17 \text{ kN/m}^3 \cdot (3 \text{ m}^2) \cdot 2$$

Evaluate Formula 

### 1.2) Maximum Pressure Intensity due to Wave Action Formula

Formula

$$P_w = (2.4 \cdot \Gamma_w \cdot h_w)$$

Example with Units

$$3.901 \text{ kN/m}^2 = (2.4 \cdot 9.807 \text{ kN/m}^3 \cdot 165.74 \text{ m})$$

Evaluate Formula 

### 1.3) Moment of Hydrodynamic Force about Base Formula

Formula

$$M_e = 0.424 \cdot P_e \cdot H$$

Example with Units

$$101.76 \text{ kN} \cdot \text{m} = 0.424 \cdot 40 \text{ kN} \cdot 6 \text{ m}$$

Evaluate Formula 

### 1.4) Net Effective Weight of Dam Formula

Formula

$$W_{\text{net}} = W - \left( \left( \frac{W}{g} \right) \cdot a_v \right)$$

Example with Units

$$225.0255 \text{ kN} = 250 \text{ kN} - \left( \left( \frac{250 \text{ kN}}{9.81 \text{ m/s}^2} \right) \cdot 0.98 \text{ m/s}^2 \right)$$

Evaluate Formula 

### 1.5) Resultant Force due to External Water Pressure acting from Base Formula

Formula

$$P = \left(\frac{1}{2}\right) \cdot \Gamma_w \cdot H^2$$

Example with Units

$$176.526 \text{ kN/m}^2 = \left(\frac{1}{2}\right) \cdot 9.807 \text{ kN/m}^3 \cdot 6 \text{ m}^2$$

Evaluate Formula 

### 1.6) Von Karman Equation of Amount of Hydrodynamic Force acting from Base Formula

Formula

$$P_e = 0.555 \cdot K_h \cdot \Gamma_w \cdot (H^2)$$

Example with Units

$$39.1888 \text{ kN} = 0.555 \cdot 0.2 \cdot 9.807 \text{ kN/m}^3 \cdot (6 \text{ m}^2)$$

Evaluate Formula 

## 1.7) Wave Height for Fetch Less than 32 kilometers Formula

Formula

$$h_w = \left( 0.032 \cdot \sqrt{V \cdot F} + 0.763 \right) - \left( 0.271 \cdot \left( F^{\frac{3}{4}} \right) \right)$$

Evaluate Formula 

Example with Units

$$94.1752 \text{ m} = \left( 0.032 \cdot \sqrt{11 \text{ km/h} \cdot 5 \text{ km}} + 0.763 \right) - \left( 0.271 \cdot \left( 5 \text{ km}^{\frac{3}{4}} \right) \right)$$

## 1.8) Wave Height for Fetch more than 32 kilometers Formula

Formula

$$h_w = 0.032 \cdot \sqrt{V \cdot F}$$

Example with Units

$$237.3184 \text{ m} = 0.032 \cdot \sqrt{11 \text{ km/h} \cdot 5 \text{ km}}$$

Evaluate Formula 

## 2) Structural Stability of Gravity Dams Formulas

### 2.1) Max Vertical Direct Stress Distribution at Base Formula

Formula

$$\rho_{\max} = \left( \frac{\Sigma_V}{B} \right) \cdot \left( 1 + \left( 6 \cdot \frac{e}{B} \right) \right)$$

Example with Units

$$103.04 \text{ kN/m}^2 = \left( \frac{1400 \text{ kN}}{25 \text{ m}} \right) \cdot \left( 1 + \left( 6 \cdot \frac{3.5}{25 \text{ m}} \right) \right)$$

Evaluate Formula 

### 2.2) Maximum Height in Elementary Profile without Exceeding Allowable Compressive Stress of Dam Formula

Formula

$$H_{\min} = \frac{f}{\Gamma_w \cdot (S_c - C + 1)}$$

Example with Units

$$42.4867 \text{ m} = \frac{1000 \text{ kN/m}^2}{9.807 \text{ kN/m}^3 \cdot (2.2 - 0.8 + 1)}$$

Evaluate Formula 

### 2.3) Maximum Possible Height when Uplift is Neglected in Elementary Profile of Gravity Dam Formula

Formula

$$H_{\max} = \frac{f}{\Gamma_w \cdot (S_c + 1)}$$

Example with Units

$$31.865 \text{ m} = \frac{1000 \text{ kN/m}^2}{9.807 \text{ kN/m}^3 \cdot (2.2 + 1)}$$

Evaluate Formula 

### 2.4) Minimum Vertical Direct Stress Distribution at Base Formula

Formula

$$\rho_{\min} = \left( \frac{\Sigma_V}{B} \right) \cdot \left( 1 - \left( 6 \cdot \frac{e}{B} \right) \right)$$

Example with Units

$$8.96 \text{ kN/m}^2 = \left( \frac{1400 \text{ kN}}{25 \text{ m}} \right) \cdot \left( 1 - \left( 6 \cdot \frac{3.5}{25 \text{ m}} \right) \right)$$

Evaluate Formula 



## 2.5) Shear Friction Factor Formula

Formula

$$S.F.F = \frac{(\mu \cdot \Sigma_v) + (B \cdot q)}{\Sigma H}$$

Example with Units

$$54.9714 = \frac{(0.7 \cdot 1400 \text{ kN}) + (25 \text{ m} \cdot 1500 \text{ kN/m}^2)}{700 \text{ kN}}$$

Evaluate Formula 

## 2.6) Sliding Factor Formula

Formula

$$S.F = \mu \cdot \frac{\Sigma_v}{\Sigma H}$$

Example with Units

$$1.4 = 0.7 \cdot \frac{1400 \text{ kN}}{700 \text{ kN}}$$

Evaluate Formula 

## 2.7) Width of Elementary Gravity Dam Formula

Formula

$$B = \frac{H_d}{\sqrt{S_c - C}}$$

Example with Units

$$25.3546 \text{ m} = \frac{30 \text{ m}}{\sqrt{2.2 - 0.8}}$$









Evaluate Formula 



## Variables used in list of Dams and Reservoirs Formulas above

- **$a_v$**  Fraction Gravity adapted for Vertical Acceleration (Meter per Square Second)
- **B** Base Width (Meter)
- **C** Seepage Coefficient at Base of Dam
- **e** Eccentricity of Resultant Force
- **f** Allowable Compressive Stress of Dam Material (Kilonewton per Square Meter)
- **F** Straight Length of Water Expense (Kilometer)
- **g** Gravity adapted for Vertical Acceleration (Meter per Square Second)
- **h** Height of Silt Deposited (Meter)
- **H** Depth of Water due to External Force (Meter)
- **$H_d$**  Height of Elementary Dam (Meter)
- **$H_{max}$**  Maximum Possible Height (Meter)
- **$H_{min}$**  Minimum Possible Height (Meter)
- **$h_w$**  Height of Water from Top Crest to Bottom of Trough (Meter)
- **$K_a$**  Coefficient of Active Earth Pressure of Silt
- **$K_h$**  Fraction of Gravity for Horizontal Acceleration
- **$M_e$**  Moment of Hydrodynamic Force about Base (Kilonewton Meter)
- **P** Resultant Force due to External Water (Kilonewton per Square Meter)
- **$P_e$**  Von Karman Amount of Hydrodynamic Force (Kilonewton)
- **$P_{silt}$**  Force Exerted by Silt in Water Pressure (Kilonewton per Square Meter)
- **$P_w$**  Maximum Pressure Intensity due to Wave Action (Kilonewton per Square Meter)
- **q** Average Shear of Joint (Kilonewton per Square Meter)
- **$S_c$**  Specific Gravity of Dam Material
- **S.F** Sliding Factor
- **S.F.F** Shear Friction
- **V** Wind Velocity of Wave Pressure (Kilometer per Hour)

## Constants, Functions, Measurements used in list of Dams and Reservoirs Formulas above

- **Functions:** **sqrt**, sqrt(Number)  
A square root function is a function that takes a non-negative number as an input and returns the square root of the given input number.
- **Measurement: Length** in Meter (m), Kilometer (km)  
Length Unit Conversion 
- **Measurement: Pressure** in Kilonewton per Square Meter (kN/m<sup>2</sup>)  
Pressure Unit Conversion 
- **Measurement: Speed** in Kilometer per Hour (km/h)  
Speed Unit Conversion 
- **Measurement: Acceleration** in Meter per Square Second (m/s<sup>2</sup>)  
Acceleration Unit Conversion 
- **Measurement: Force** in Kilonewton (kN)  
Force Unit Conversion 
- **Measurement: Moment of Force** in Kilonewton Meter (kN\*m)  
Moment of Force Unit Conversion 
- **Measurement: Specific Weight** in Kilonewton per Cubic Meter (kN/m<sup>3</sup>)  
Specific Weight Unit Conversion 
- **Measurement: Stress** in Kilonewton per Square Meter (kN/m<sup>2</sup>)  
Stress Unit Conversion 



- **W** Total Weight of Dam (Kilonewton)
- **W<sub>net</sub>** Net Effective Weight of Dam (Kilonewton)
- **Γ<sub>s</sub>** Sub Merged Unit Weight of Silt Materials (Kilonewton per Cubic Meter)
- **Γ<sub>w</sub>** Unit Weight of Water (Kilonewton per Cubic Meter)
- **μ** Coefficient of Friction between Two Surfaces
- **ρ<sub>max</sub>** Vertical Direct Stress (Kilonewton per Square Meter)
- **ρ<sub>min</sub>** Minimum Vertical Direct Stress (Kilonewton per Square Meter)
- **Σ<sub>v</sub>** Total Vertical Force (Kilonewton)
- **ΣH** Horizontal Forces (Kilonewton)



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