

Glossary

1. **Bearing walls**-A load-bearing wall or bearing wall is a wall that bears the weight of the house above said wall, resting upon it by conducting its weight to a foundation structure. The materials most often used to construct load-bearing walls in large buildings are concrete, block, or brick.
2. **Pre-fabricated Panels** - Prefabrication is the practice of assembling components of a structure in a factory or other manufacturing site, and transporting complete assemblies or sub-assemblies to the construction site where the structure is to be located.
3. **Dry Strength Test**-This is the test to check the suitability of soil. Five or Six small balls of soil of approximately 2 cm in diameter are made. Once they are dry (after 48 hours), each ball is crushed between the forefinger and the thumb. If they are strong enough that none of them breaks, the soil has enough clay to be used in the adobe construction. If some of the balls break, the soil is not considered to be adequate, because it does not have enough clay and should be discarded.
4. **Fissuring Control Test**- This is the test to check the suitability of soil. At least eight sandwich units are manufactured with mortars made with mixtures in different proportions of soil and coarse sand. The sandwich having the least content of coarse sand which, when opened after 48 hours, does not show visible fissures in the mortar, will indicate the most adequate proportion of soil/sand for adobe constructions, giving the highest strength.