

MASONRY NEWS

Sponsored by:  **EZ Grout Corporation**

Volume 8 Issue 38

February 2009



Photos: Schroeder Masonry

Schroeder Masonry discovered the Ultimate Grouting System

When Schroeder Masonry located in Leipsic, Ohio began the construction of Fort Jennings High School, Fort Jennings, Ohio, the project spec required low-lift grouting, not to exceed 48" vertically, and to have a 2,500 psi grout strength minimum. An engineer on the job performed slump testing and made cylinders for break test on every grout pour - therefore the mix consistency was very important.

The location of the project presented a hurdle for the contractor, Tim Schroeder. The jobsite was located 45 minutes from the nearest ready-mix plant, the decision was made to use a Spec Mix tower to ensure that grout would be available when required. The size of batches needed and the timeliness of delivery led to a decision to use a 20 cu. ft. Mud Hog® from EZ Grout Corporation to mix materials directly on the jobsite as needed. This gave the crew total control to mix at the precise time as needed. This also eliminated the need of scheduling concrete trucks and short load charges. Already being familiar with the benefits of placing grout using only two people with the Grout Hog®, the final piece of the puzzle was in place to maximize productivity for Schroeder Masonry.

Ultimately, this arrangement allowed for better jobsite efficiency. The decision to use this equipment combination created, in essence, a portable "batch plant." With less than 30 minutes set-up, the Spec Mix tower and the Mud Hog® were moved into close proximity of each wall as the project progressed. With the speed and ease of use that the Grout Hog® grout delivery system provided was all that was needed to complete the system.

The Fort Jennings High School project was a perfect site to benefit from the advantages that Spec Mix and EZ Grout products offer in a simple yet efficient grouting combination. Schroeder Masonry was a truly satisfied customer.

News Update

Effective March 1, 2009 Multiquip, Inc. will become the exclusive distributor of EZ Grout equipment in the United States and Mexico. EZ Grout is happy to report that the transition is well underway with the start of the World of Concrete. Damian Lang, CEO/President of EZ Grout Corporation met with the new President of the General Construction Equipment Division of Multiquip, Mike Howlett to announce the exciting news to the industry. When completed, this new partnership will offer comprehensive masonry equipment solutions for the customers of both companies!



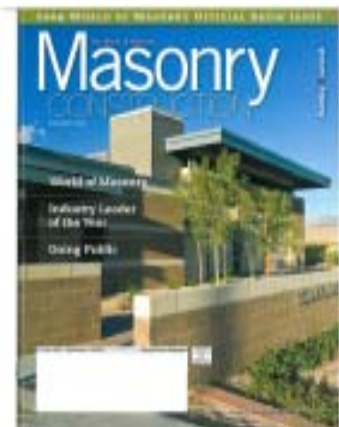
As part of the new agreement distributors who are currently Multiquip distributors will merely continue with EZ Grout product line. All orders will be placed directly with Multiquip. EZ Grout will continue to provide distributors and end-users alike with quality, labor-saving equipment and unprecedented warranties for this equipment. Rest assured that your current level of service will not be affected.

Multiquip will continue to offer great distributor service, sales support and quality products, which now includes EZ Grout! Please visit the Multiquip's website at www.multiquip.com for more information about service and support.

Over the coming months you will see these changes implemented. If you should have any questions or concerns, please direct these to Thad Skinner at 888-344-7688 ext. 115. On behalf of everyone at EZ Grout Corporation and Multiquip, Inc., we would like to thank you for your business and continuous support.

2008 Industry Leader of the Year

Damian Lang, CEO/President of EZ Grout Corp. was recently awarded the prestigious title of the 2008 MASONRY CONSTRUCTION Leader of the Year. Mr. Lang has long been involved in the masonry industry; his masonry company is celebrating 25 years in business. Although, he was honored for the success of his masonry business, he was also recognized for his commitment to the industry. His selection was based on the countless hours he has given back to the industry with his involvement with the MCAA (Mason Contractors Association of America) and his tireless pursuit of innovative ideas to help other masons realize profitability and productivity in the industry. To read more about the 2008 Industry Leader of the Year and to learn about the most up-to-date news in the masonry industry log onto www.masonryconstruction.com.



Masonry News - Safety First



Site Safety

General site safety awareness is an important topic. It enables construction workers to: understand the hazards associated with construction work, and maintain a heightened awareness of the existence of hazards and their avoidance.

Personal Safety Measures

General safety rules that can help you avoid injury are:

- Wear the appropriate clothing for the job you are doing. Winter cold and summer heat can present problems on the job. Shirts should be worn at all times.
- Wear appropriate safety shoes for the job you are doing.
- Personal protective gear must always be a part of your wardrobe when appropriate. Safety glasses, hard hats, and safety shoes should be a part of your permanent equipment and worn when required.
- Rings, watches, and other jewelry are always a hazard, and should not be worn when working.
- Combustible materials are a fire hazard at any construction site. Tobacco products, portable heating devices, small engine equipment, and welding equipment pose the greatest danger.
- Never participate in or tolerate horseplay at your construction site. Supposed fun can turn into tragedy. While there is no requirements to provide such overview training on site safety, such training generally makes employees more aware of the potential hazards of the type of site on which they are working, and can improve general awareness of and attitudes toward safety on the construction site. Use the worksite as a training ground, conduct site safety training early in the morning, before traffic is too heavy around the site or at midday, when workers are likely to need a break from heavy physical exertion in the noonday sun. Remember always be aware of safety on the jobsite, it could save your life!



(Info provided courtesy of Keller's Construction Toolbox Talks, Site Safety - General Overview copyright 2003)

EZ Grout donates mixer to Top Craftsman

As part of the Spec Mix Bricklayer 500 National, EZ Grout awarded the Top Craftsman winner, Bert Schneider with Helander Masonry in Illinois a 9 cu. ft. Mud Hog®. As part of the agreement, Bert in turn awarded the mixer to Robert Arnold, Director of the District Council Training Center of the Division of the BAC. Rolly Cox, National Sales Representative for EZ Grout will be presenting the mixer to the BAC to help train apprentices in the mason industry.

Masonry News Contractor Tip of the Month

by: Damian Lang, President, Lang Masonry Contractors & EZ Grout Corp.

If you are the leader, LEAD!

Is one of your employees saying or doing something that you are not happy about? Are you lying awake worrying about this without addressing the situation? Let me tell you this: if you can't sleep due to the mental anguish an employee is causing you, that employee is controlling your life. Do you really believe you should have to live like that? I don't and I won't! Address the problem head on and quickly.

I have five brothers and three sisters so I learned early in life the importance of communicating. My dad always taught us that if you have something bothering you, you need to talk about it before it sits and festers. If not, it will become a bad wound that can leave a scar on your relationship. Because of this, my family has always told one another what we think the other person can do to improve instead of what we know the other person wants to hear. It hasn't always been easy to do or to hear, believe me. However, since we know where we stand with one another, it has kept our family very close to one another. That's why I feel the same way about my employee relationships.

Now, if you are stressed out while reading this, I can tell you it isn't something in your operation that is causing your stress, it is most likely someone. For example, a piece of equipment may break down, but it doesn't do things that cause you mental anguish like call in sick or stay out all night drinking and come in with a hangover the next day. However, a person can undermine your authority or do things that drive you absolutely nuts. I hear this all the time when talking to contractors from every part of the country. My question to them is always the same, "Why don't you just sit this person down and talk to him?"

Most tell me they are uncomfortable doing that. (Wow, you are stressed to the point you can't even sleep nights and don't have the courage to sit the person down that is causing the problem and tell him what is bothering you?) Just get it out in the open. The stress will go away for the monkey will be on the back of the person causing the problem, instead of you carrying it around.

A good leader will also make sure his people are not so intimidated that they won't tell him what they have on their mind. If your co-workers or friends fear rebuttal from you, they will only tell what you want to hear, and you will stunt your own growth. A good employee or true friend is the one who will tell you what you don't want to hear because they want to help you improve. That's when you know you have really made it as a leader, when you have that level of trust established.

If you are the leader, lead! Don't leave people hanging. Get the issues out in the open. Things always get better after the cards are face up on the table and everyone knows where they stand. If you don't communicate, things will only fester and get worse because you are letting that employee control your life. Think about it...shouldn't you control your own life? The only way to do this is to tell them what is on your mind. As a leader, it is your choice. Are you going to sleep well tonight by addressing the issues today? Or, is the person causing the problems going to sleep like a baby while you lay in bed awake wondering what that same employee will be doing to you tomorrow?

Damian Lang is a mason contractor in Southeast Ohio who has four companies that do combined sales of 20 million. He is also the author of the book "Rewarding and Challenging Employees for Profits in Masonry". To order a copy of his book or to attend one of his seminars held specifically for mason contractors, call Sherry Wittkeind at Lang Masonry 888-344-7688.



EZ Grout Corp.
405 Watertown Road
Waterford, OH 45786 USA
www.ezgrout.com