

Contractor

Service & Industry

Bulletin

November / December 2011



6459 State Highway 23, Oneonta, NY 13820-6550
607-432-8391, Fax 607-433-6284



Otsego Ready Mix, Inc.
2 Wells Avenue
Oneonta, NY 13820
607-432-3400

ONE OF THE GREATEST JOYS OF THIS SEASON IS THE OPPORTUNITY TO SAY THANK YOU AND TO WISH YOU THE VERY BEST FOR THE NEW YEAR. AS WE BEGIN OUR 14TH YEAR OF PUBLICATION, WE CONTINUE DOING OUR BEST TO BRING YOU INNOVATIVE AND TIMELY INFORMATION RELATED TO THE INDUSTRY.

WE GENUINELY APPRECIATE YOUR LOYALTY AND WISH YOU SUCCESS IN YOUR BUSINESS IN 2012.

MAY YOUR HOME BE FILLED WITH THE JOY OF FAMILY AND FRIENDS THIS HOLIDAY SEASON.



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NYS DEC Passes Law on Rechargeable Battery Recycling

The NYS Rechargeable Battery Recycling Act (Article 27, Title 18 of the Environmental Conservation Law) was signed into law on December 10, 2010. The law requires manufacturers of covered rechargeable batteries to collect and recycle the batteries statewide in a manufacturer-funded program at no cost to consumers. Most rechargeable batteries contain toxic metals that can be released into the environment when improperly disposed. Consumers across the state will now be able to safely return to retailers rechargeable batteries, from a large number of electronic products, for recycling or proper management at the end of their useful life.

Disposal Ban

Beginning December 5, 2011, no person shall knowingly dispose of covered rechargeable batteries as solid waste at any time in the state.

Consumer Responsibilities

Consumers should make every effort to responsibly recycle their used rechargeable batteries as improper disposal will be prohibited by a disposal ban.



Pickett Building Materials is in compliance with this law, and customers may drop off used batteries at our store in Oneonta. See a sales associate for additional information.

For more information, visit the NYS DEC website at www.dec.ny.gov/chemical/72065.html



Cracking Concrete Surfaces

What are some forms of cracks?

Concrete, like other construction materials, contracts and expands with changes in moisture content and temperature and deflects depending on load and support conditions. When provisions for these movements are not made in design and construction, then cracks can occur. Cracks can form due to plastic shrinkage, improper jointing, freeze / thaw and settlement.



Cracks rarely affect structural integrity. Most random individual cracks look bad and although they permit entrance of water, they do not lead to progressive deterioration.

Why do Concrete Surfaces Crack

The majority of concrete cracks usually occur due to improper design and construction practices, such as:

- Omission of isolation and control joints and improper jointing practices.
- Improper subgrade preparation
- The use of high slump concrete or addition of water on the job.
- Improper finishing
- Inadequate or no curing

How to prevent or minimize cracking

All concrete has a tendency to crack and it is not possible to consistently produce completely crack-free concrete.

However, cracking can be reduced and controlled if the following basic safeguards are observed:

- Provide proper control and isolation joints
- In slab-on-grade work, prepare a stable subgrade
- Place and finish according to established rules
- Protect and cure the concrete properly



NRMCA National Ready Mixed Concrete Association
Information has been adapted and condensed for our purposes.

Phase-Out of Incandescent Light Bulbs

Legislation passed in 2007 requires general-purpose bulbs to be at least 25% more efficient starting in January 2012.

Initially, consumers will find three main alternatives to incandescent bulbs on shelves:

- halogen-incandescent
- compact fluorescent (CFL)
- light-emitting diodes (LED)

Many are designed similarly to the familiar pear-shaped "A-Line" bulb that consumers know.

- Halogens** behave most like existing bulbs, but have an inner capsule filled with halogen gas around a filament to make the bulb about 25% more efficient than a traditional incandescent. They're also the cheapest alternative at less than \$2 each.
- CFLs**, by comparison, produce a 75% energy savings and cost about \$2 to \$5 each. However, the bulbs contain faint traces of mercury, which can be released as vapor if the bulb is broken until properly cleaned up, according to the Environmental Protection Agency.
- The **LED** lamp is an ultra compact light source using a semiconductor chip that is up to 85% more efficient than incandescent and lasts 25 times longer, cost is between \$20 and \$55 each.



Market Report

Paul Barnhart



Even in the face of the still generally slowed construction economy, notable increases are about to occur. All major Gypsum manufacturers are about to implement a significant restructuring of their pricing systems. To begin with, there will no longer be long-term job quote pricing protection. The plan as it stands is to implement a 35% price increase effective January 1st and then to maintain that price for the whole calendar year. After so many years of the more free-wheeling pricing system we have always known, the success and therefore duration of this new approach into the first quarter of 2012 is an item of close scrutiny at all levels of the construction industry where most seem to be taking a wait and see attitude.

In addition, both metal roofing and fiberglass insulation have announced approximate 5% increases. Asphalt products are at this time maintaining a status quo reflecting the barrel price of oil. So far in the northern tier of states, the mild approach of winter weather has allowed outdoor work to continue the demand for exterior materials which has helped support the continuation of current price levels.



Septic Tank Risers and Lids in stock at



24" Riser Lid STRL24 \$15.95
24" x 6" Riser STR24 \$15.95



*"I know all there is to know about how to use a ladder, so don't lecture me."
"Accidents happen to other people."*

Tell that to the nearly 247,000 people who landed in the ER last year due to ladder related injuries. That's more than were hurt by any other piece of equipment, so please take a moment and reacquaint yourself with some ladder safety basics.

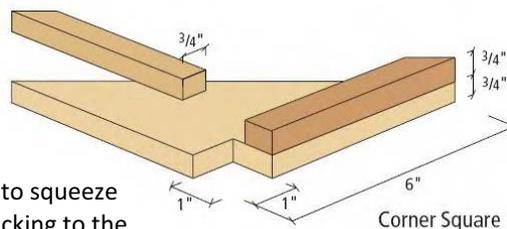
Ladder Basic's

1. Choose your ladder wisely. Select a fiberglass ladder if there is chance of your coming in contact with any electric wiring.
2. Don't overload - Each ladder has a posted load capacity and you should make sure you and the load you are carrying is well within those posted limits.
3. Always check the condition of your ladder, cracks, checks, loose bolts, missing parts, dented or bent. All ladders should be taken out of service if they show signs of weakening.
4. Select the right height- very important- Stay off the top rungs of a step ladder, and also the last three rungs of an extension ladder.
5. Check that rung locks and latches are making positive connections
6. Never climb on shaky ground - Make sure your ladder is level and firmly positioned.
7. Climb with others around. Select a time when there will be someone close by to provide assistance if needed.

Holding Assembled Parts Square

Nick Engler of Popular Woodworking Magazine has provided a useful tip to hold parts square to one other when assembling. He suggests making a "corner square jig" that allows you to clamp the cleats to the parts while you are assembling to hold them at an exact 90 degrees.

To make the corner square, first cut right angles from $\frac{3}{4}$ " inch plywood.



Note: Put a little notch in the right corner, to allow the glue to squeeze out of the joint, eliminating sticking to the assembly. Attach cleats to the right sides and then trim the cleats on a table saw to make sure the outside edges are precisely 90 degrees from one another.



These jigs are useful for dozens of shop chores. They also hold temporary assemblies together while you test the fit of the parts. They can hold boards together while you drill holes for fasteners, or hold the parts of a frame or a box square to one another while the glue dries. Nick states he has used them to hold large boards – too large to fit in a vise—while he has worked the ends or edges. He also commented "miter clamps have their place, but they aren't as versatile or as easy to use as corner square jigs".

- Nick Engler, Popular Woodworking Magazine



Johns Manville

The only complete line of Certified Formaldehyde-Free fiberglass home insulation.

Johns Manville Formaldehyde-Free fiberglass insulation addresses concerns over the indoor and outdoor environment to meet the needs of today's builder, architect and customer.

Q: When did JM introduce formaldehyde-free insulation?

A: In March 2002, Johns Manville became the first, and today is still the only, fiberglass insulation manufacturer to stop adding formaldehyde to building insulation as a binder.

Instead, Johns Manville uses an acrylic binder that eliminates all binder-related emissions of formaldehyde during manufacturing. The acrylic binder also reduces concerns about formaldehyde in the indoor environment once installed.

Q: Is there formaldehyde in ordinary fiberglass insulation?

A: Yes. Glass fibers will not stick together unless they are glued or bound together. Formaldehyde has typically been used as one of several ingredients to make this kind of binder – an adhesive that holds fibers together allowing them to keep their shape and overall form. Ordinary fiberglass insulation is made by spraying a phenol-formaldehyde binder on the glass fibers.



All Johns Manville fiberglass insulation is made with an average of 25% more North American recycle content than any other fiberglass manufacturer.

Johns Manville is in stock at Pickett Building Materials in both Faced and Unfaced.

For additional details visit the JM information center at www.specJM.com



Also in stock at Pickett's

Climate Pro Blow-In Insulation

- Easy to install over existing batts
- Solid blanket of coverage
- Least expensive per R-Rating
- Most effective for increasing insulation levels
- Clean, white, non-flammable
- No Formaldehyde



The Story of the Three Contractors

Three contractors were visiting a tourist attraction on the same day. One was from New York, another from Texas, and the third from Florida. At the end of the tour, the guard asked them what they did for a living. When they each replied that they were contractors the guard said "Hey, we need one of the rear fences redone. Why don't you guys look at it and give me a bid."

So to the back fence they went.

First up was the Florida contractor. He took out his tape measure and pencil, did some measuring and said, "Well I figure the job will run about \$900. \$400 for materials, \$400 for my crew, and \$100 profit for me."



Next was the Texas contractor. He also took out his tape measure and pencil, did some quick figuring and said, "Looks like I can do this Job for \$700. \$300 for materials, \$300 for my crew, and \$100 profit for me."

The guard asks the New York contractor how much. Without so much as moving the contractor says, \$2700."

The guard, incredulous, looks at him and says "You didn't even measure like the other guys! How did you come up with such a high figure?" "Easy" says the contractor from New York, "\$1,000 for me, \$1,000 for you and we hire the guy from Texas."

