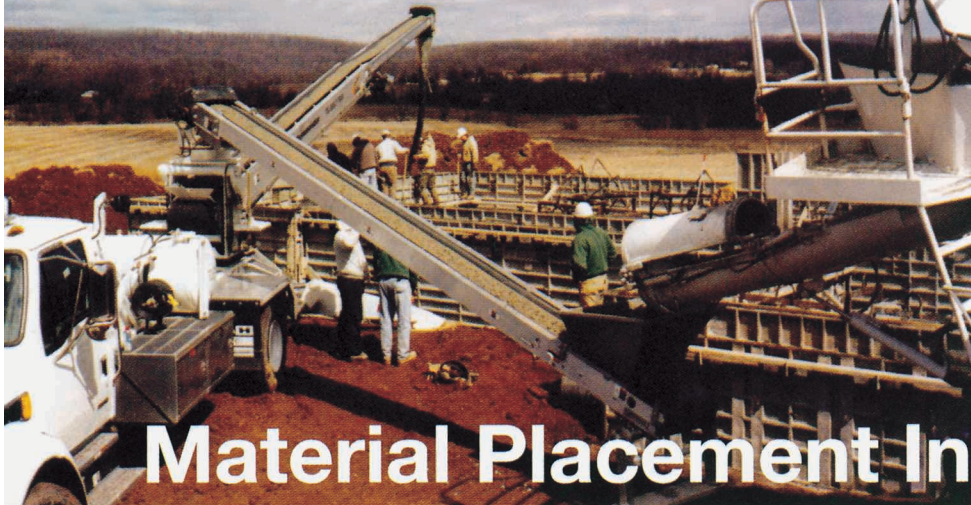


# THE DRIVING FORCE IN HEAVY TRUCKS AND EQUIPMENT



◀ Chuck Nyce of Nyce Concrete Construction in Elliottsburg, PA uses 2 TB 50's for his wall crews. He likes its 50' reach

## Material Placement In A Snap

*Conveyors increase placing options and business opportunities*

Marvin Schreiner, Topeka, KS, doesn't pine for the past — at least not for the days of using Georgia buggies and long chutes to pour foundations and floors in low-clearance buildings. "We pulled a lot by hand and that just worked our guys to death," he says. But since investing in his 50' conveyor last year, Schreiner simply backs up to the door and reaches the conveyor over the wall to place gravel. "We're done in no time, and our guys come in much happier at night. I can't imagine working without it," he says.

"Conveyors attract better workers," agrees residential concrete contractor Doug Bladow, Wahpeton, ND. "They see they won't have to run wheelbarrows." Bladow focuses on footings, walls, and floors, as well as agricultural projects, and relies on his conveyor for access in tight spots such as shop floors.

While conveyors have always been capable of moving high volumes of concrete and dry materials such as sand, gravel, and aggregate, many contractors have only recently begun to capitalize on them. "Contractors traditionally used conveyors for just footings and walls," says Don Matthews, field service engineer, Putzmeister, "Now they can do everything with one machine."

After pouring footings, Bladow immediately places rock and sand for drain tile. Resource-conscious contractors will also appreciate the lack of waste. "You won't lose 3/4 yd. of concrete like you would priming a concrete pump," adds Monte Lamer, V&H, Inc., Marshfield, WI, "For a moderately busy contractor that adds up pretty fast. Three to four jobs a week times 47 weeks per year times 3/4 yd. times \$69.00 amounts to \$10,000 a season."

The first step in choosing a conveyor is determining the output and boom length necessary for your typical projects, Matthews says. For Schreiner, a 50-footer was just what he needed. "It can get into places the bigger ones can't," he says, adding that it lays down material as fast as his crew can work it.

Set up an appropriate maintenance schedule and maintain the truck daily, particularly the spring-loaded carbide steel scrapers on the feeder and main conveyor, Matthew says. The scrapers clean the belts by wiping fines and mortars off and depositing them with the flow of the concrete. "Belts are practically self-cleaning, but you have to keep scrapers working," Matthews says. "Operators biggest mistakes are not paying attention to the ready mix truck's discharge into his hopper, or letting the scrapers leak."

Conveyors are major investments. Matthews estimates a 105' conveyor is comparable in length and price to a 36-meter pump. Even so, these contractors find the ability to move a variety of materials with one machine too attractive an option to pass up since they save money and time in other areas. And they don't miss the frustration of waiting for days to get a pump or conveyor lined up.

As the benefits of conveying catch on, contractors with conveyors find themselves very much in demand. Bladow has picked up so much work from other contractors that he's toying with the idea of getting another conveyor. "In our business time really is money," he says. "We've got to be efficient at what we do." ■



**Conveyors place volumes of concrete, sand, and stone, creating a material handling value for contractors who want to expand operations and reduce reliance on other contractors.**

