

Safety Spotlight

Construction Materials That Reduce Safety Hazards

By: Michelle Leroux - CSP

Concrete Background

Joe Lewis is a very well known concrete contractor in the greater Binghamton area. He has been in this business for over 35 years. This 2nd generation business was started by his father in the 1980's. They have established a good reputation for quality work and service.

They insist on high quality customer service and safety on their jobs. These services include the selection of the construction materials. How can the choice of materials make this difference? Joe Lewis gave us one really good example of how this works for his customers.

Concrete Example

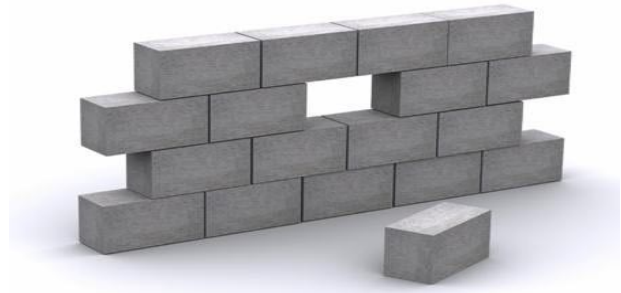
Joe Lewis does a number of jobs that include building retaining walls. Retaining walls are traditionally built with a 3-5' footing of poured concrete with substantial rebar before the actual wall is built. This takes considerable excavation, forming, pouring, and finishing the concrete. The vertical wall is built on top of this footing. This takes additional formwork, concrete pouring and finishing. Building these walls includes drainage considerations to remove water from the area. This takes several days.

By choosing a segmented block retaining wall design, the customer will save on the amount of time needed to do the work. Joe's crew has substantial experience installing these self supporting block systems. It takes considerably less manual labor to complete this type of wall construction. The joints are mortar less. This reduces the likelihood of injuries on the job.

Depending on the style of segmented block, the customer can get one of many types of self supporting block designs that look great and drain water away from the area you want to protect. Customers have been very pleased with the results.

How Members Benefited/Outcomes

This is a great way to show that construction materials selection does make difference for the customer and crew safety. This reinforces the fact that good job planning works.



Joe Lewis's company has 35 years of experience in the concrete business. They have had a very good safety record over those years in business. Their work is handled professionally from start to finish. For additional information you can call Joe Lewis at 607.760.0097

Want More Examples?

There are many additional examples of how choosing the right materials and the right tools can positively impact safety on the job.

You can contact USA-TPA Safety Specialist Mark Balduzzi for more details on this safety material selection at mbalduzzi@usa-tpa.com