

WINTER 2022

# OFF THE WALL WC&C

An Industry Publication by the Wall Ceiling & Carpentry Industries of New York



## DOB releases report on unmanned aircraft systems

page 17

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## WC&C OFF THE WALL

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*From the  
Executive Director  
John DeLollis*

## Going Forward

It's a given that supply chain problems, higher prices, and inflation have caused myriad problems for our industry and New York City construction hasn't been left unscathed. We're still looking for solutions to ease us through trying times.

In a recent article "Thinking Ahead: Understanding the Hidden Risks in Your Backlog," consulting firm FMI recommends clients simply stay close to your customers and understand what is driving your projects' success. They advise, if possible, securing materials early to lock in prices and mitigate supply chain delays, but more important be sure to continually test and retest the viability of your backlog and understand each owner's level of commitment. Sound advice from recognized industry experts.

While we're following that blueprint to navigate the twisting road to profit in 2022, let's also consider the basic advantages of our association's communications. After missing our annual convention last year, we are once again on track this year. We will be gathering at the outstanding Ritz-Carlton Key Biscayne, in Miami, Florida March 24 through March 28. It will be an opportunity to unwind and network with peers and enjoy once again our lively annual meeting. Please visit our website ([wcc-ny.com](http://wcc-ny.com)) and make your reservations. Do it now.

This issue of Off The Wall features an article "Long disparaged, education for the skilled trades is slowly coming into fashion" authored by John Marcus of the Heckinger Report. In it he writes education for the skilled trades appears to be returning to fashion, according to enrollment trends, survey data and other signals. Though not specifically addressing the construction industry alone, it does relate directly to it. Marcus points to one trend reviving interest in education in the trades appears to be growing doubt among high school students and career switchers about the value of a four-year college; the proportion of high schoolers who are considering a four-year education has plummeted from 71 percent to 48 percent since the start of the COVID-19 pandemic, according to a survey by the ECMC Group, a nonprofit student loan guaranty agency that also operates three career schools. It is an interesting article and one you will enjoy.

Looking forward to seeing you at our Convention in Key Biscayne.

—John.

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*From the  
President  
Michael Weber*

## **2022 The New Normal**

COVID-19, the delta variant and now the omicron variant have impacted our lives personally and professionally in such a profound way that living with this new normal is so challenging it reminds me of an article I wrote years ago, “Adapt or Die.” Adapting to COVID-19 variants and the mandates that follow is a daunting challenge to say the least. Whether you are trying to disseminate local, state or federal protocols imposed on your business or implementing procedures in your company to meet the ever-changing policies imposed on corporate America makes the Great Recession of 2008 look like child’s play.

Managing sick days, quarantines, mask mandates, who’s vaccinated and who’s not vaccinated along with FMLA COVID sick leave, soaring material escalation and supply chain issues will have a negative impact on your bottom line if you lose sight of the basic fundamentals of running a business in this new normal.

In closing, I look forward to getting back to some normalcy with in person membership meetings once the omicron variant runs its course and society is more comfortable engaging on a personable basis in lieu of computer screen zoom meetings. I look forward to seeing everyone at the AWCI Convention & Intex Expo 2022 in Texas this April. For more information or to register, please visit [www.awci.org/events/awci-convention](http://www.awci.org/events/awci-convention). Be safe, stay healthy and look forward to a prosperous 2022.

— Michael Weber



# It's The Law

By Mark A. Rosen

Mark A. Rosen is legal counsel to the Association of Wall-Ceiling & Carpentry Industries of New York, Inc. He is a partner in the firm of McElroy, Deutsch, Mulvaney & Carpenter, LLP. Mark practices in the areas of construction and contract law, public contract law, arbitration, surety, and general commercial litigation. He can be reached at [mrosen@mdmc-law.com](mailto:mrosen@mdmc-law.com).

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## **Companies With More Than 100 Employees Will Need To Submit Data On Their Employees' Race, Sex, Ethnicity, And Job Groups To The U.s. Equal Employment Opportunity Commission Starting April 12th**

Employers will be required to file the data by a tentative May 17 deadline, as part of an annual submission known as the EEO-1 Report. The requirement previously had been delayed due to the Covid-19 pandemic.

The EEOC's collection will not include worker pay data, a component that had been subject to litigation. The administration is waiting on the results of studies as to how and if to include pay data.

## **Litigation By Employees Terminated For Refusing Comply With A Company Vaccine Mandate**

Litigation by employees terminated for refusing to comply with company vaccine mandates has thus far been largely unsuccessful. Employers generally have leeway to issue vaccine mandates so long as they account for religious and disability accommodations. Private companies have been successful in defending these policies in court. The actions of private companies would not be affected by the Supreme Court's decision regarding the Federal Government's efforts to require vaccines.

Private employers benefit from the "at will" employment doctrine which provides that they can generally fire employees for any reason so long as it doesn't violate the law or breach a contract. Employers also have a responsibility to keep their employees safe and argue that unvaccinated employees can harm other workers or burden operations.

## **A Federal Appeals Court In New Jersey Held That In Certain Circumstances A Federal Court Can Order Joint Arbitration Of Two Separate Labor Disputes**

With this holding, the Third Circuit joined six other appeals courts in deciding that a federal district court can, in certain circumstances, compel joint arbitration under the Labor Management Relations Act. However, the court denied the relief in this case because it found that the companies could not establish the necessary contractual nexus among the parties to the two arbitrations.

Typically, courts have permitted joint arbitration where there is a single employer with multiple union agreements. In this case two separate but related companies sought joint arbitration of two separate but interrelated disputes with two different unions, each with their own collective bargaining agreements.

Company A had entered into a CBA with Energy Allied Industrial and Service Workers International Union Local 15024 AFL-CIO in 1972. It later created a separate company, Company B, so that it could work with the International Union of Operating Engineers Local 825 as well.

After Company B subcontracted a number of projects to Company A, Local 825 filed a grievance alleging that using Local 15024 workers as subcontractors violated its collective bargaining agreement.

In seeking joint arbitration the companies argued that if the arbitrator decided that by virtue of the subcontract Company A must use Local 825 workers, then it would force Company A to violate its agreement with Local 15024. The court denied the companies' request because the unions didn't have an obligation to arbitrate with both companies, joint arbitration was necessarily impermissible here, the court said. •



## LaGuardia Gateway Partners Opens 2nd Phase Of Western Concourse In New Terminal B, Closing Final Gates Of Original 60s-Era Central Terminal Building

*Western Concourse features brand new amenities including family-friendly spaces and new American Airlines Admirals Club*

LaGuardia Gateway Partners (LGP) – the manager and developer of Terminal B – announced in December the opening of the second phase of the Western Concourse. The interior of the 218,000 square foot Western Concourse is now fully open, featuring soaring ceilings up to 55 feet high and flooding the space with natural light. This phase includes the opening of four new gates, which enables LGP to close the final gates of the original Central Terminal Building.

The new Terminal B is now more than 90 percent complete. With modern amenities, innovative design and family-friendly spaces, the new concourse showcases the vision to build a 21st century terminal that is a leader in guest experience, innovation and sustainability.

American Airlines primarily operates its flights out of the Western Concourse, which will also include a brand new 20,000 square foot Admirals Club. Phase 1 of the new 350+ seat lounge opens today. American plans for the club to be fully complete in Spring of 2022.

The new concourse was designed with families in mind, offering a children’s play area modeled after New York City. Children of all ages can design their own city skyline on a 16-foot interactive display and climb on miniature bridges and skyscrapers. In addition, a brand-new nursing mother’s room and two additional family restrooms have opened in the concourse.

Opening along with the new concourse are two new retail shops – InMotion, a traveler’s top destination for electronics on the go, and The Scoop, offering everyday travel essentials and convenience items. These offerings join the already-opened Bar Veloce, Beecher’s Market Café, Sweetleaf Coffee and Gotham News in the concourse. Additional dining – Mi Casa, offering freshly made Mexican street food and an outpost of Manhattan’s Hunt and Fish Grill – will open in the near future.

Early next year, the second of the terminal’s dual sky bridges will open to connect the main part of the terminal to this second island concourse. Passengers will walk above aircraft as they make their way to their gate, all while enjoying views of the iconic Manhattan skyline. •

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# Dodge Construction Network: Total Construction Flat in December

Total construction starts were flat in December with a seasonally adjusted annual rate of \$879.3 billion, according to Dodge Construction Network. Residential construction starts gained 4% in December 2021, while nonresidential building starts improved by 3%. Nonbuilding starts, however, declined 12%.

Across 2021, total construction starts rose by 12% compared to 2020. Residential starts moved 20% higher, and nonresidential buildings increased 12%. Nonbuilding starts were flat in 2021.

“The increase in construction starts was impressive given the many challenges the industry faced during the year. Higher material prices, labor shortages, and multiple waves of COVID infections threatened to dampen the recovery,” stated Richard Branch, chief economist for Dodge Construction Network. “However, construction remained resilient and persistent throughout the year in the face of these difficult issues. While these challenges will remain in 2022, the industry is well-positioned to make further gains fed by a growing pipeline of nonresidential projects waiting to break ground and the infusion of money directed towards infrastructure.”

Below is the breakdown for construction starts:

**Nonbuilding construction starts** lost 12% in December to a seasonally adjusted annual rate of \$166 billion. The only sector within nonbuilding to gain ground during the month was environmental public works, which gained 40%. Utilities/gas plants fell 79%, miscellaneous nonbuilding dropped 23%, and highway and bridge starts fell by less than 1%. For the full year, nonbuilding starts improved by 0.4% from 2020. Environmental public works rose 21% and utilities/gas plants moved 6% higher. However, miscellaneous nonbuilding starts were down 16% for the full year, and highway and bridge starts fell 6%.

**The largest nonbuilding projects** to break ground in December were the \$1.3 billion East Side Coastal Resiliency project in New York, NY, the \$305 million Kirkman Road extension in Orlando, FL, and the \$177 million first phase of the Friant-Kern Canal Middle Reach project in Lindsay, CA.

**Nonresidential building starts** improved 3% in December to a seasonally adjusted annual rate of \$284.3 billion. The commercial sector advanced 12% due to gains in retail, office, and hotel starts while parking structures lost ground. Institutional starts fell 17% in December as healthcare pulled back following a strong November. Manufacturing starts, meanwhile, posted a significant gain due to the start of a large project. For the full year, nonresidential building starts gained 12% from 2020. Commercial starts were up 8%, institutional starts improved 5%, and manufacturing starts rose 89% for the year.

**The largest nonresidential building projects to break ground in December** were the \$700 million expansion of the Danimer Scientific manufacturing facility in Bainbridge, GA, the \$650 million expansion of the Los Angeles County Museum of Art in Los Angeles, CA, and the \$500 million renovation of the Fontainebleau Hotel in Las Vegas, NV.

**Residential building starts** rose 4% in December to a seasonally adjusted annual rate of \$429.0 billion. Multifamily starts moved 5% higher, and single family starts gained 3%. For the full year, residential starts were 20% higher than in 2020; multifamily starts rose 25%, and single family starts increased 18%.

**The largest multifamily structures** to break ground in December were the \$1.0 billion Southside Park mixed-use building in Miami, FL, the \$398 million first phase of the Broadview at Purchase College senior living facility in Purchase, NY, and the \$300 million 800 Broadway apartment tower in San Diego, CA.

**Regionally**, total construction starts in December rose in the South Atlantic and Northeast regions, but fell in the Midwest, South Central, and West regions. •



# **DOB releases report on unmanned aircraft systems**

*Study Finds That Drones Could Potentially be Utilized During Façade Inspections*

The Department of Buildings has announced the release of a new comprehensive report on the potential use of unmanned aircraft systems in New York City to aid in safety inspections of our City's built environment. This agency report provides a deep dive into the regulatory landscape affecting drone use in New York City, the use of drones in other jurisdictions, and how drones could potentially be used for building façade inspections within the five boroughs. The report primarily looks at the capabilities of drones in the context of mandatory façade inspections under the City's existing Façade Inspection & Safety Program (FISP). The Department would invite further study on how drone use, and its accompanying technologies, could be safely employed by these professionals.

"It is imperative that we continue to embrace the latest technologies and innovations in support of our mission to protect our fellow New Yorkers," said Buildings Commissioner Melanie E. La Rocca. "Our report is the product of intensive research by DOB experts, and finds that when combined with traditional hands-on examinations, the effective use of drones could potentially result in more comprehensive building inspections, resulting in reduced inefficiencies and a safer New York City."

Currently, legal drone use in New York City is restricted only to approved government agencies in response to specific emergency response situations. Changes to these restrictions allowing for commercial use of drones, such as during a FISP inspection of the exterior walls of a building, would require new legislation from the City Council to amend the New York City Administrative Code.

The Department's report found that when used in conjunction with up-close, hands-

on examinations, the use of unmanned aircraft systems could potentially have application for façade inspections, by providing additional information to the Qualified Exterior Wall Inspector. Specifically, drones could potentially be used for collecting significant amounts of visual data such as photographs, videos, and thermal imaging. Drone pilots might also be capable of capturing images of building angles that are more difficult to access using current methods of visual inspection, which is important for the inspection of larger buildings.

By studying these issues further and gathering concrete data, the City could have a clearer understanding on the extent to which emerging unmanned aircraft technologies can be utilized to improve the efficiency and safety of required building inspections. Looking further into the future, additional study could also offer a glimpse into how drones can be safely operated for broader commercial use in a dense city environment. Finally, the City will want to investigate what additional rules and specific guidelines would need to be implemented if drones were used to help maintain public safety in the future.

"This thorough report highlights how the City can take steps to enhance its situational awareness and improve emergency responses through innovation and technology," said NYC Emergency Management Acting Commissioner Andrew D'Amora.

"Ever since Erica Tishman was killed by falling debris two years ago, I have pushed to find a way to use drones to inspect buildings. We must use all the tools at our disposal to prevent such unnecessary injuries and death. I am deeply gratified that today we are moving forward with one of my top priorities," said Council Member

Robert E. Cornegy, Jr.

“As Chair of the New York City Council’s Committee on Technology, I know that we must always be moving forward with using the best technology to promote the safety and durability of our buildings. The use of drones to inspect buildings could yield more detailed results and greater safety, as well as greater efficiency and documentation. It’s well worth pursuing.” said Council Member Robert Holden.

“I commend the Department of Buildings for exploring new technologies to make building inspections safer, cheaper, and more efficient,” said Council Member Carlina Rivera. “Façade inspections should not be so costly that scaffolding stays up for decades and our historic landmarks are impossible to maintain. I look forward to working with DOB to modernize façade inspections and other building maintenance to make our city safer for all New Yorkers,” said Council Member Carlina Rivera.

“Building technology is developing faster than it has in a century,” said Carlo A. Scissura, President and CEO of the New York Building Congress. “We’re seeing drones, artificial intelligence and other innovations make design and construction more efficient, stronger and safer. New York City was always been innovative, but our outdated codes and rules have left us behind while other cities benefit from cutting-edge technologies. With this report, the Department of Buildings has taken a major step forward for New York to catch up. Our hope is that the incoming City Council will act swiftly to enable the use of drones for façade inspections, making the process safer and more efficient.”

“The consulting engineering community applauds DOB for its continual work in assessing ways to increase efficiencies, new technologies, and innovative

approaches. Today is an important step towards the potential deployment of this new tool by professional engineers to increase public safety. We look forward to working with DOB to make sure drone technology is used appropriately and effectively,” said John Evers, President & CEO, American Council of Engineering Companies of New York (ACEC New York).

“CSACNY commends commissioner La Rocca and DOB for their continued efforts to improve public and worker safety,” said James Bifulco, President of the Construction Safety Advisory Committee of New York. “Embracing drone technology could greatly enhance the safety to the public during the facade inspection process, make facade repair and emergency response operations safer, and significantly reduce the time needed to have sidewalk sheds in place. We applaud the Department’s effort to continue to investigate new ways, and new technologies to improve public safety.”

“Thank you for your diligent inquiry and report. We look forward to a time when judicious drone deployment is available to the city’s QEWIs to further our efforts to assure the safety of the city’s buildings,” said Paul Millman, PE, RA, Principal at SUPERSTRUCTURES Engineers + Architects.

“Adding drones to our inspection toolbelt will greatly enhance the thoroughness of the visual inspection and documentation process, particularly on high-rise structures, and permit precise monitoring of facade conditions over time to detect signs of deterioration and distress well before critical conditions develop. I believe that once drones become a routine part of the inspection process in NYC we will wonder how we ever got by without them,” said Brett Rieger, AIA, RAND Senior Architect and Drone Group Leader. •

## Sensera Systems Launches PTZ600 Solar Powered Smart Panoramic Jobsite Camera



Sensera Systems, Inc., the market leader in all-in-one compact-solar site cameras, today announced the release of its new PTZ600 Solar and AC-Powered camera models. Sensera PTZ600 site cameras offer Sensera's essential and advanced features while enabling customers additional flexibility to round out their jobsite solution. Sensera's PTZ600 camera is designed for advanced user remote site monitoring including progress documentation, safety applications, and productivity and logistics management on jobsites. Ideal for large-scale sites requiring a wide coverage area and fine detail, this powerful camera provides three important new capabilities:

*Multi-location Time-lapse – capture as-built at unprecedented detail of the locations that matter as the project progresses*

*Automated Panoramas – allows up to 360-degree coverage for large sites, and panorama resolutions to 100MP*

*Live Video Streaming with Real-time PTZ – pan/tilt/zoom (10x optical zoom) to monitor activity and progress in real-time at very fine detail*

Smart Technology Elevates Ease of Use Sensera's PTZ600 solar powered cameras are the first of their kind to offer universal 4G/LTE connectivity using eSIM technology. As part of Sensera's SiteCloud service, wireless carriers for specific devices are updated automatically over the air ensuring optimal camera connectivity for any given location and assures seamless, uninterrupted wireless coverage when moving systems from one site to another. Sensera's PTZ600 cameras support 100's of wireless carriers worldwide, providing multi-national customers significant logistical advantages.

"We are excited to bring the PTZ600 to the project teams we serve. It will help them capture more of the project in greater detail than ever and at a price-point that is affordable for all project types. The PTZ600 builds on our field experience and our new hardware platform to

# Product News

move ahead our objectives of making jobsites safer, and more productive,” said David Gaw, Founder and CEO, Sensera Systems. “For our Municipal and Government customers, the PTZ600 provides a more flexible solution for surveillance to help deter and stop illegal dumping, vandalism, and other crimes.”

The new PTZ600 camera is available in Solar+AC and AC only models with Solar+AC MSRP at \$9,999. Project pricing, enterprise level pricing and multi-camera discounts available.

Sensera site cameras are powered by Sensera’s SiteCloud platform which provides easy-to-use software for viewing, monitoring, and sharing real-time site data, detecting actionable insights, and simplifying workflow. SiteCloud is tightly integrated with

Sensera’s complete line of fixed position and security cameras, mobile apps, and SiteCloud-AERIAL drone photography services to support improved productivity, quality, safety, and automated documentation from one simple web interface. With the PTZ600, SiteCloud now offers multi-location time-lapse with fully automated and custom movie generation, and automated panorama capture and processing. SiteCloud service includes WiFi and 4G LTE connectivity making it a true end-to-end solution. Integrations with Procore®, Autodesk Construction Cloud, and PlanGrid simplify and automate workflow across the enterprise. SiteCloud also offers APIs for customers to integrate value-added applications and workflows.

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## Armstrong Introduces New Wall Reveals for Drywall and AcoustiBuilt® Panels

*New moldings create a horizontal or vertical separation allowing for decorative transitions between wall panels*



Armstrong Ceiling & Wall Solutions has introduced an array of Wall Reveals that create a precise horizontal or vertical separation in drywall walls, allowing for decorative or functional transitions from drywall-to-drywall panels or drywall to Armstrong® AcoustiBuilt® panels.

AcoustiBuilt wall panels provide the seamless appearance of drywall along with effective acoustical performance. Finished AcoustiBuilt panels combine a smooth, non-directional, monolithic visual with excellent sound absorption and sound blocking. Finishing methods are similar to those of traditional drywall.

Available in white and custom colors, the new pre-engineered moldings are manufactured from extruded aluminum to provide crisp edge detailing. Factory-finished intersections, corners, and 90-degree angles allow for an easy change of direction or wrap-around corners.

The new additions feature six different wall moldings. They include a 1/2" and 5/8" reveal for 5/8" drywall, a 1/2" and 5/8" F-reveal for 5/8" drywall, a 1/2" Z-reveal for 5/8" drywall, and a 1/2" reveal molding for AcoustiBuilt panel to 5/8" drywall transition.

### **Multiple Benefits to Contractor**

To help speed installation, the new moldings also feature a pre-punched taping flange for easy drywall or AcoustiBuilt wall attachment and precise alignment between straight reveals, intersections, and corners with included "screwless" splice plates. In addition, integrated taping flange grooves allow for improved bonding when finishing drywall or AcoustiBuilt panels.

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## From Bosch PROFACTOR 18V Connected-Ready SDS-plus® 1-1/4 In. Rotary Hammer (Bare Tool)

This 18V SDS-plus® Bulldog™ 1-1/4 In. rotary hammer is powerful enough to provide corded-type performance for tackling heavy-duty concrete drilling or chiseling jobs. The Bosch GBH18V-34CQ Rotary Hammer delivers 4.3 Ft.-Lbs. of impact energy (EPTA). That is unprecedented for a single 18V battery-driven 1-1/4 In. SDS-plus® rotary hammer. It weighs 10.8 Lbs. (tool only, not including battery). This hammer is part of the PROFACTOR System, which pairs BITURBO Brushless Technology with a CORE18V PROFACTOR battery. BITURBO Brushless Technology is a high-performance motor and drive-train system designed to deliver power comparable to high-demand corded tools. The anti-vibration system helps reduce vibration with a longer air cushion in the hammer



tube and dampeners in the handle. The hammer has KickBack Control, a quick-release chuck, rotary hammer and hammer-only modes, a reverse setting and Vario-Lock to rotate and lock the chisel. The hammer features an on-tool user interface for tool performance, feedback and control. It has connectivity (module sold separately) to link to connected device via Bosch Toolbox App to customize settings and receive detailed feedback.

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## New Crescent VORTEXTM Bit Holder Extends Bit Life 500X



Contractors have long been frustrated with breaking screwdriving bits. In fact, 75% of contractors report loss of time when bits break on the job. Now, thanks to the new Crescent VORTEXTM Bit Holder, it's time to save time and money on the jobsite. This revolutionary bit holder extends the life of any 1/4-inch hex shank bit by 500X.

"Pros make a living by saving time on the job, and the time it takes to discard and replace a broken bit really adds up," says Gina Hurt, product

manager for Crescent Tools. "We looked at all the ways we can make our users more productive, and we found an opportunity with the Crescent VORTEXTM Bit Holder. All this time contractors thought that the bits were the problem, but they just needed a better holder. So, we gave it to them."

The exclusive Dual Impact Zone™ in the Crescent VORTEXTM Bit Holder extends the life of bits up to 500 times when using bits with an impact driver. This unique design feature absorbs the shock of repeated, heavy usage in impact applications while still delivering maximum torque from the impact driver.

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# Product News

## From Milwaukee: M18 FUEL™ 2” ProPEX® Expander Kit w/ ONE-KEY™

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for one-handed connections. All-metal gears and an integrated metal frame deliver maximum tool durability on the job site. The POWERSTATE™ Brushless Motor allows for the fastest expansions yet runs cooler with no wearable components. The REDLITHIUM™ XC5.0 Extended Capacity Battery provides 20% more power, and 2X more recharges than standard lithium-ion batteries and best-in-class performance in extreme jobsite conditions. REDLINK PLUS™ intelligence ensures optimized performance and protection from overload, overheating, and over-discharge. The MILWAUKEE® M18 FUEL™ 2" ProPEX® Expander also has ONE-KEY™ so you can wirelessly connect the tool with your smartphone to track and manage. This ProPEX® expansion tool is designed for UPONOR® ProPEX® connections to deliver fast potable water installations from expansion to seal.

## MILWAUKEE TOOLS

[milwaukeetools.com](http://milwaukeetools.com)

## RIDGID® Introduces First In-Line Standard Press Tool: The RP 351

RIDGID®, part of Emerson's professional tools portfolio and the leader in pressing tool technology, is again bringing game-changing innovation to the skilled trades with the introduction of the RP 351, its first in-line standard press tool. The new offering, engineered from the ground up to deliver reliability and efficiency, operates with an advanced brushless motor requiring no scheduled maintenance.

The [RP 351](#) with SlimGrip™ handle for enhanced balance and control weighs only about eight pounds with battery. It joins the recently introduced RIDGID RP 350 Press Tool, a drill grip standard

press tool introduced last year to help professionals get more done on every job with less fatigue and no timeouts. Together, the advanced, long-running press tools are built for the most demanding situations and give professionals maximum standard press tool versatility on the job site. Both tools are ideal for making connections on carbon steel, copper, PEX and stainless-steel pipe on residential, commercial and industrial jobs.

"RIDGID pressing technology has always set the standard for flameless connections, and the RP 351 and RP 350 are taking this commitment to the next level," said Michael Provenzano, global marketing director, press connections, RIDGID for Emerson. "These tools are built to work continuously and are lightweight and agile enough to fit in tight spaces, giving plumbers versatility they've come to expect from the RIDGID brand."

The RP 350 and RP 351 feature an advanced brushless motor, known for maximizing tool longevity, efficiency and durability. Their 360-degree swivel is an industry-first and comes paired with brightest-in-class LED lights to let users not only access tight spaces, but see them more clearly in low and no-light applications. And no scheduled maintenance means less downtime.

Both tools are also compatible with the full line of RIDGID standard series jaws and rings, including: ½ – 4-inch ProPress® for copper and stainless steel, ½ – 2-inch PureFlow® for PEX, and ½ – 2-inch MegaPress® for carbon steel. They also offer maximum versatility, pairing with the RIDGID Press Booster for 2 ½ -inch, 3-inch, and 4-inch carbon steel, StrutSlayr™ Strut Shear Head and the Press Snap™ Soil Pipe Cutter.

## RIDGID TOOLS

[ridgid.com](http://ridgid.com)

## Dewalt's New 20v Max\* Drywall Sander



DEWALT announces the 20V MAX\* Drywall Sander (DCE800), another addition to the expansive 20V MAX\* System, which features more than 200 products supporting cordless jobsite solutions. Optimized for mobility, the sander is ideal for production work and repairs in hard-to-reach and unpowered areas.

The 20V MAX\* Cordless Drywall Sander is the first in the DEWALT line and is optimized for use in demanding applications. A telescoping shaft and fully articulating head allow for easy sanding of walls and ceilings in confined spaces and tough-to-reach areas. The sander is also designed with a head-mounted brushless motor, which maintains constant speed under load while eliminating flex shaft and brush failures.

As part of the DEWALT commitment to safety, the 20V MAX\* Cordless Drywall Sander includes several

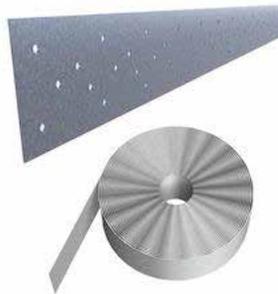
features to enhance dust-extraction. It is fully integrated with Wireless Tool Control, allowing the unit to wirelessly activate and deactivate a compatible dust extractor (DCV585, sold separately) without a separate fob. Once paired, the trigger automatically activates and deactivates the dust extractor, preserving extractor battery life and eliminating the user's need to manually control the dust management process. Additionally, the sander contains a built-in AirLock connection port, which allows for quick and secure connection to DEWALT dust extractors without the need for a separate adaptor. Other features include a variable speed dial and dual action trigger for application versatility.

\*Maximum initial battery voltage (measured without a workload) is 20 volts. Nominal voltage is 18.

**DEWALT TOOLS**  
dewalt.com

## Bracing Wall Studs And Floor Joists Now Made Quick And Easy With Clark Dietrich's New Coil Strapping

Adding to its industry-leading lineup of clips and connectors, ClarkDietrich now offers a multi-purpose, commercial-grade coil strapping product for wall framing and floor joist applications. ClarkDietrich's commercial strapping takes the guesswork out of bracing, as the coil comes standard with pre-punched holes to speed up installation and improve overall installation costs.



“Our new commercial strapping product is yet another example of ClarkDietrich producing products and systems that make work on the job site easier, more efficient and cost-effective,” said Terry Westerman, vice president, marketing, ClarkDietrich. “Product differentiators such as pre-punched holes, user-friendly packaging and coming in a variety of lengths, all makes a contractor’s job easier.”

ClarkDietrich’s commercial strapping is available in 1”, 1-1/2”, 2”, 2-1/2” as well as 3” widths, and comes in lengths ranging from 100 ft up to 200 ft. The new strapping product is also available in both 18 and 20 gauge options. ClarkDietrich offers tension load values.

ClarkDietrich’s Clip Express Service is a dedicated and streamlined support and delivery system for steel framing connection products. It’s the industry’s top source for fast and economical connection solutions. With huge finished product inventories and a ship-it-now mentality, Clip Express helps keep projects on-time and under budget.

**CLARK DIETRICH**  
clarkdietrich.com

## New AMPTM Advanced Modified Polymer Sealants from DAP® Designed to Outperform Silicone

Professionals and do-it-yourselfers alike will be amped to try DAP’s new advanced hybrid sealants that outperform silicone and provide maximum performance for every project. Combining the best attributes from traditional silicone and polyurethane technologies, the AMP family of sealants from DAP features superior weatherability and durability. They can be used in extreme temperatures and prevent mold and mildew growth, rivaling any other high-performance product in the market today.

AMP advanced hybrid sealants offer a wide variety of project and application solutions. Developed for both exterior applications – such as windows, doors, siding, trim, gutter, flashing and concrete – and interior applications like kitchen and bath projects, the new AMP line delivers a 100% weatherproof and waterproof seal. It can be applied on wet and damp surfaces, offers extreme temperature use of 0°F to 140°F, features fast and efficient 30-minute paint and rain/water ready times, and is backed by a lifetime mold and mildew resistance guarantee.

“While there are many sealant options to choose from, our lineup of AMP Hybrid Sealants leapfrogs traditional sealant performance to provide maximum project performance that can’t be matched,” said Megan Youngs, Director of Product Management – Caulks and Sealants at DAP, a leader in the home improvement and construction products industry. “For exterior applications, users will appreciate that AMP offers superior weatherability and durability, can be applied in extreme temperatures while staying flexible, and is UV resistant with strong substrate adhesion. AMP’s innovative hybrid technology also offers proven wet surface application and prevents mold and mildew growth, which gives users long-lasting confidence whether their job is inside or out.

**DAP**  
dap.com

## Tips for Longer, Safer Power Tool Battery Life

### *Power Tool Institute identifies easily employed best practices*

Power tools and their batteries are rugged instruments designed to perform tough jobs, but they still require care to maintain safe, optimum performance. There are steps users can take to extend tool and battery life, and help keep power tools operating at peak performance for a longer life cycle.

The Power Tool Institute has compiled a list of best practices for safer use of batteries and power tools.

#### **Safe handling**

Start by reading the manufacturer's instruction manual – and only use original manufacturer's system components of tool, battery and charger. Do not impact or damage a battery (for example, do not use it as a hammer), use it solely for the defined purpose as specified by the manufacturer. If a battery has received a sharp blow, been dropped, or is damaged, discontinue use.

Regularly inspect batteries for signs of damage, such as crushing, cuts, or punctures. Be mindful of abnormal battery behavior, such as failure to fully charge or hold a charge, longer-than-usual charging times, noticeable drop in performance, liquid leakage from the battery, or melted plastic anywhere on the pack. These are indications of an internal problem.

Never modify, disassemble, or tamper with the battery because the performance can become unpredictable and dangerous. As a general practice, it is best to unplug battery chargers and remove battery packs from them when not in use.

#### **Safe storage**

Do not store batteries on their chargers. Always use and store the battery within the temperature limits stated by the manufacturer. Do not store in a closed

location where sunlight may cause elevated temperatures, such as near a window or inside a vehicle. Do not store or transport the battery in a container with loose metal objects, such as coins, keys or nails, which may contact the terminals.

#### **Safe response to overheating**

Though batteries and chargers are safe to use when operated properly, in rare instances a battery may overheat. If the battery is exhibiting signs of overheating (flames, smoke, smoldering, or melting), immediate action is required. If connected to a charger when exhibiting signs of overheating, always unplug the charger first. After unplugging the battery charger, then pour copious amounts of water on the battery and then submerge the battery (including any attached tool or charger – do not directly touch/disconnect the battery) in a sturdy container filled with water. When transferring the battery, avoid direct contact with the battery (use a long-handled shovel) and use appropriate personal protective equipment to protect face, hands and body, since there is a risk that overheated batteries may vent, explode, or emit flame.

If the battery is exhibiting flames, continue using copious amounts of water until the flame is extinguished, then submerge the battery (including any attached tool or charger) in a sturdy container filled with water.

If water is not available, dirt, sand or a conventional ABC extinguisher may be used in an attempt to smother and cool the battery until water is available.

Keep the battery submerged, in a well-ventilated location, for at least 24 hours and at least 15 feet away from any combustible items. Contact the manufacturer for guidance on proper disposal.

# Product News

For more information about extending the life of power tools and their batteries, visit <https://www.powertoolinstitute.com/>.

## About PTI

With the vision to unify and educate others about power tools, since its founding in 1968, the Power Tool Institute (PTI) has established itself as the leading organization for building global understanding of power tools and for maintaining high standards of safety in the industry. Its members, a list of whom can be found here, represent market-leading brands in the areas of portable and stationary power tools. PTI's members are committed to improving the industry and to being the premier resource for power tool education. For more information, contact PTI

216-241-7333 or [pti@powertoolinstitute.com](mailto:pti@powertoolinstitute.com). On the Web: [www.PowerToolInstitute.com](http://www.PowerToolInstitute.com) and [www.TakeChargeOfYourBattery.com](http://www.TakeChargeOfYourBattery.com).



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# NSC Issues Statement on SCOTUS Decision to Block OSHA COVID-19

## Vaccines are the single most effective way to prevent severe illness, hospitalization and death

THE NATIONAL SAFETY COUNCIL is disappointed with the Supreme Court decision to block the Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) from fulfilling its mission of protecting workers on the job through the enforcement of the COVID-19 Vaccination and Testing Emergency Temporary Standard.

Vaccines are the single most effective way to prevent severe illness, hospitalization and death from COVID-19. With almost 850,000 Americans dead, the omnipresent threat of COVID-19 is clear: There has been and continues to be an immediate grave danger in the workplace.

“COVID-19 continues to devastate the American people, and employers must play a role in fighting this deadly virus,” said Lorraine Martin, NSC president and CEO. “Despite the Court’s ruling, we call on employers everywhere to take responsibility for the safety of their workers by implementing a requirement for vaccination or testing, and exhausting any and all proven safety countermeasures such as masking, frequent handwashing, improved ventilation systems,

and regularly disinfecting work surfaces.”

For organizations in need of assistance, the National Safety Council, in partnership with the Health Action Alliance, has developed a decision tool for business leaders that provides specific guidance and addresses key questions and considerations for workplace vaccine requirements and other safety countermeasures.

For additional workplace vaccine-related information and resources such as reports, playbooks, webinars and surveys, visit [nsc.org/safer](https://nsc.org/safer).

### About the National Safety Council

The National Safety Council is America’s leading nonprofit safety advocate – and has been for over 100 years. As a mission-based organization, we work to eliminate the leading causes of preventable death and injury, focusing our efforts on the workplace, roadway and impairment. We create a culture of safety to not only keep people safer at work, but also beyond the workplace so they can live their fullest lives.

Join the

National Safety  
**Stand-Down**  
To Prevent Falls in Construction

MAY 2-6, 2022

## Construction Workers Say Their Anxiety And Depression Has Gotten Worse Amid Pandemic

Symptoms of anxiety and depression among construction workers have worsened during the COVID-19 pandemic, especially among women and workers living in poverty, according to a new report from CPWR – The Center for Construction Research and Training.

Anxiety and depression are of particular importance in the construction industry, CPWR notes, citing a 2020 Centers for Disease Control and Prevention study that concluded male construction workers have one of the highest suicide rates among all industries and are at four times greater risk than the general public.

Using 2011-2018 and 2020 data from the National Health Interview Survey, researchers examined self-reported symptoms of anxiety and depression among construction workers to uncover any potential patterns

and changes amid the pandemic. During the time frame prior to the pandemic, the number of construction workers who reported feeling anxious at least once a month rose 20%.

Among a subset of nearly 1,300 construction workers who were surveyed in both 2019 and 2020, 43% reported a rise in the level or frequency of anxiety/depression feelings between the two years. Those increased feelings were most prevalent among workers whose family incomes were below the poverty line (61%), female workers (50%) and those ages 18-54 (46%).

The 2020 data shows that symptoms of or medication use for anxiety/depression were nearly three times higher for workers who used prescription opioids in the past year (39%) compared with those who did not (14%).

— from *Safety+Health* magazine

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