



Case Study: Acme Brick

Acme Brick's raw materials handling is significantly streamlined into a safer and more efficient process with the introduction of Bluff Yard Ramps.

About Acme Brick

As the nation's largest U.S. owned manufacturer of fired clay brick, Acme Brick stands solidly behind its products with one of the strongest commitments in the industry, the pacesetter 100 Year Limited Guarantee for Homebuyers and the famous Good Housekeeping Seal. Operating 24 brick plants in the central United States, the Acme brick is American-made by an American-owned company, and has been for 118 years. With its origins going back that far, Acme Brick has successfully weathered many boom and bust periods in the construction industry and is stronger for it.

Challenge

All of Acme's fired clay brick production plants were of a ground level design. None of the plants had fixed docks so offloading of materials was a very labor intense, inefficient process fraught with potentially unsafe situations. Raw materials were usually at the front of the incoming trucks and needed to be relocated to the back of the trailer. If the freight line operators did not have their own pallet jack in the trailer, Acme personnel had to maneuver one up into the trailer. If a pallet jack was in the trailer, it had to be manually positioned and operated in order to relocate all of the shipment to the from the front of the trailer to the back of the trailer.

This materials hauling involved a tremendous amount of time and physical labor, all before the shipment was even off loaded. Furthermore, not only were the materials in the shipment large and bulky (natural clay materials, additives contained in 50 gallon drums, etc.), but the space available for maneuvering inside a half-filled trailer was often very limiting and added to the amount of time taken and hazard present in offloading. Once the materials were transferred to the back of the trailer, Acme was able to use their plant fork lifts, remove the materials from the trailer and transport them into the production facility. Clearly this continuous production material

Solution

Having more experience in the production and application of yard ramps than any other manufacturer in the business, Bluff Manufacturing was able to quickly assess Acme's offloading challenges and identify an immediate solution. Bluff recommended the use of its steel Yard Ramps as a safe and cost effective answer to Acme's production plant unloading issues. Use of the Yard Ramp would allow forklifts immediate access to the materials stored at the front of the trailer, thereby bypassing the need to reposition the materials prior to offloading.

Implementing the use Bluff Manufacturing's Yard Ramp to its brick production facilities allowed Acme Brick to streamline its materials handling process into a safer, more efficient process. This change immediately translated into cost savings in production of one of the nation's finest clay fired brick, the Acme Brick.



Overview

The ground level design of Acme Brick's production facilities, coupled with significant raw materials transportation challenges left Acme in an inefficient materials handling position.

The introduction of Bluff's Yard Ramps at the production facilities allowed Acme to significantly increase the safety and efficiency in which the raw materials for brick production are handled.