



CASE STUDY

# CUSTOM MATERIAL BUCKET

They had a problem, we built the solution





# Custom Designs For Vertical Construction

J.E. Dunn Construction custom material bucket

## THE CHALLENGE

Like most of David's projects, there are always a lot of moving pieces, specifically when working in a delicate environment like a hospital. In this specific job, construction would take place right on top of a cardiac unit that had several labs—all required to keep functioning during the construction. "You're working in an existing operating hospital. The more you can keep construction out of that hospital, the better you are. Our whole logistic plan was geared around that idea."

In recent jobs, David had worked on similar vertical expansions where they had moved material with an outrigger and tower cranes through the exterior wall. For the Wilkes-Barre build, David wanted to explore an alternative that would be easier on his team and the budget. "There's always cost," David says, "And you're trying to make it as efficient as possible. The easier the better."

With so much material coming in and out of the site, it ate up both time and energy for his team that translated into higher costs. He needed a solution that would keep him out of the hospital but make material loading and transportation far easier.

*"I said I want to be able to move material from the ground to the building," says David. "I'm looking at your material baskets, here's what I'd like to do, and [Cale] said, 'We'll build you anything you want.'"*



**J.E. Dunn** has been working in the industry for over 90 years. With over 20 locations across the United States, they are one of the leading construction management companies in the United States. They work on big-scale projects, specializing in different industries from government buildings and healthcare to apartment complexes and airports. Whether working on a couple million dollar job or 200 million dollar job, their goal is always the same: bring the best quality project they can to their customers.

David Meeks is a job superintendent in J.E. Dunn's health care divisions, specializing solely on hospital construction across the United States.

David was recently set to work on a vertical expansion for the hospital in Wilkes-Barre, Pennsylvania. The job involved a vertical construction on top of their Emergency Department, building out an ICU floor, adding two new floors, and a helipad on the roof.



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## THE PROCESS

When David began his search, little did he know that a Canadian company up north would be his solution. Bigfoot's material bucket was what first caught his eye. While it wasn't exactly what he was looking for, it seemed like it would be the best choice.

As soon as he got on the phone with Bigfoot Sales Rep, Cale Anderson, the two of them started a conversation about the project, reviewing what it entailed and what issues J.E. Dunn was trying to eliminate.

It didn't take long for Cale to also recognize that while Bigfoot's products would work, it wouldn't be exactly what David needed. Instead of offering second best, he took a different approach.

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Based on what David's project entailed, Cale and his team, worked to design a material platform precisely to what the job needed.



**"It just wasn't a complicated process," says David. "Especially having to design something and build it—and all done via email. It was designed, [Cale] sent me the design with the [new] specifications, we okayed it, wrote him a check, it was built, and delivered in a timely fashion."**

The process of finding the right solution was already a win for David and his team at J.E. Dunn. Because of Cale's working knowledge of construction, all David needed to do was explain the situation and Cale already knew what kinds of features would best fit the job.

**"I didn't have to explain anything to [Cale]—he actually explained some things to me," says David. "I'll call some vendors sometimes and they'll put you in contact with somebody and they may be a college graduate but they've never been on a job site. They don't know how it works, so you spend 45 minutes explaining to them what you're needing and why you need it."**





## THE RESULT

The end project was a custom material platform, 14 ft long and 6 ft wide with a 4,500 lb capacity. Additions included removable walls, ramps, and latch for the tower crane.

“Cale and his team designed the removable panels and guard rails on it so they could take it off and load it with a forklift in lieu of having to strap it in and strap it out. Then it had the ramps—you take the panel off, lay the ramp down, and you could roll stuff up in and out of it, as we came in and out of the building.”

“I don't particularly remember saying, ‘I have to have ramps that fold down’, but he incorporated that into the basket. And that's why I would go back to Bigfoot and Cale—his working knowledge of construction and he understood what my guys were going to be doing with this basket.”

The platform was a hit on the job site and ended up being used by every contractor on the job. And of course, the platform came through on the job's biggest needs—keeping the crew out of the hospital and cutting down their transportation time.

“It was just the logistics and the time savings from using this basket. The truck would pull up, you could unload the truck with a fork lift, set it on the basket and you wouldn't have had to move anywhere. The crane picks up the basket, sets it on a platform at the building, and you're three feet from the door entering construction. We cut out 600–700 ft of travel every time something was moved into the job.”

Additionally, David went on to work with Bigfoot and purchase an additional self-dumping bin to keep garbage and scrap material out of the way on the site.



To see more of how Bigfoot creates custom solutions, see how we worked with companies like Sun Peaks.



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# Notes

