



## **Commercial Building Design Review**

*Did Your Architectural Plans Include Room for Your Compactor?*

Commercial buildings are popping up all over the United States. The economy is booming, the stock market continues to show gains, and tower cranes dot the metropolitan landscape from Boston to Seattle and everywhere in between. Talented architects are using next-generation design tools to create beautiful yet functional structures that house people, Fortune 500 companies, universities and retail stores. In every one of these buildings, one thing is a constant – their occupants all generate garbage that needs to be handled discretely and efficiently.

The problem with the above picture is that architects often forget to design the space required for a commercial compactor or baler to collect daily waste (Municipal Solid Waste) and recyclables (i.e. cardboard, paper and plastics). When companies like Marathon Equipment, the leading manufacturer of commercial compactors and balers, are contacted *after* the concrete is poured, it becomes a tricky *and expensive* task to figure out a place to put waste handling equipment – which can require hundreds of square feet of space, a substantial concrete pad – and 3-phase electrical power to operate. And then there's the discussion around how to access the equipment to remove loaded containers and replenish with fresh ones – often via a commercial roll-off - without the overhead room for a roll-off hoist.

“We were recently contacted by a major brand name outfitter who had just taken possession of a large newly constructed retail store in the Northeast,” said Bob Quinn, Director of Compactor Sales at Marathon Equipment. “They were in a panic as no thought had been given to the trash room size and location. It was too small for their volume of waste. Further complicating the problem – city ordinances prohibited them from having trash receptacles or dumpsters in public view, i.e., exposed on a loading dock.”

“We see this all the time, and this ends up costing store owners a lot of money they wouldn't of had to spend if their architects would have simply contacted us or visited our website for help.”

In the above situation, Marathon's architectural liaison was able to provide a solution that worked for them but required costly and timely rework – along with a reallocation of space that was originally designed for another application.

### ***Design Tools for Modern Architects – Autodesk Revit***

Unlike the two-dimensional drafting drawings from years ago, modern architects rely on Revit files, which provide a realistic 3D look to architectural drawings. With Revit files, architects can rotate their drawings, providing customers with a 'close to actual' view of what their property



will look like. More importantly, Revit files allow architects to ‘drag and drop’ the files into their drawings, allowing them to scale and position objects to ensure they fit. The drag-and-drop feature also accelerates the drafting processes immeasurably – allowing architects to communicate with clients visually versus merely conceptually.

Marathon works with architects daily to provide these drawings – as well as expertise on the construction side to ensure the building has the appropriate infrastructure to support and power the equipment.

If you’re in the market for a new commercial store front and you’re working with a design firm, make sure they’ve allocated space for your compactor or baler. If you’re an architect, make sure you visit the Marathon website, [www.marathonequipment.com](http://www.marathonequipment.com), and go to our Technical Support page, where you’ll find our Architectural Files folder. Here you can download not only our Revit files, but also building material information. You can also contact our Architectural Liaison, Jordan Sandlin at [Jordan.sandlin@marathonequipment.com](mailto:Jordan.sandlin@marathonequipment.com)