

ing any square footage to our stamping facility,” says Toboyek. The efficient, high-capacity die racks help make this possible and should generate ROI within three years.”

For the full story, visit <http://www.mhmonline.com/viewStory.asp?nID=6034&S=1>.

Raising the Roof on Sustainability Costs

From the pages of *Material Handling Management*



With jacks in place, support pillars and walls are cut. The roof is inched up to its new position.

An increasingly popular way to get a larger building is to pop the top. Brian Holroyd, vice president of Rooflifters, Toronto, Ontario, says financial forces are going through the roof.

“Reusing a building is nothing new,” says Holroyd. “What we do actually increases the value of the asset—the building—which is what people are looking to do these days.”

Holroyd says there’s money to be saved in reusing or selecting a building with a favorable geographic location yet a limiting height. “Rehabilitating a building by raising the roof height, expanding vertically rather than horizontally,” he says, “can cost, typically, as little as \$15 per square foot for a 100,000-square foot building.”

As an example, he cites Canada’s largest distributor of candy and snack foods, Planter’s Peanuts in Toronto. The company decided to expand upward rather than outward. It raised the existing roof of its 70,000-square foot warehouse by jacking up the entire roof to achieve the 16 additional feet it needed to accommodate its modern multi-story material handling system. Holroyd estimates the company saved approximately 40% in construction costs, while more than

doubling the facility’s useable area from 1,120,000 cubic feet to 2,240,000 cubic feet in just six months.

“We have a patented process,” he explains, “that transfers the existing roof load onto specially designed hydraulic equipment placed underneath the structural beams of the roof.”

The entire roof is then raised to the desired height and held there while the wall structure is strengthened and built up to the new height. New structural columns are built, and mechanical, lighting, and HVAC systems are reconnected.

During the actual raising, the Rooflifters’ system is able to synchronize the lifting of each point with tolerances as low as 1/8 of an inch, so that there are no stresses or damage to the existing roof structure, thus maintaining structural integrity. All work is done under the roof, inside the building. Rooflifters is able to raise roof areas of up to 150,000 square feet at one time, and larger areas can be done in phases. The building can even be used during the process, although the working section has to be vacated.

Holroyd says there are government incentives in many areas for this kind of building use and reuse. “Investors, owners and businesses that are outgrowing their present facility should also be aware of local, state and federal programs that offer incentives to rehabilitate existing industrial structures and reuse industrial buildings vacant for at least two years,” he says.

For the full story, visit <http://www.mhmonline.com/viewStory.asp?nID=6247&S=1>.

10 Steps to Reducing Inventory

By Jane Lee

From the pages of *Material Handling Management*

Excess inventory takes up valuable space, is expensive to maintain and may become obsolete or spoiled. However, insufficient inventory leads to lost sales and unhappy customers.

Most companies have two challenges: too much of the wrong stuff and not enough of the right goods. Knowing where to begin making inventory improvements is not easy. Here are 10 steps you can take to get started.

Step 1: Make sure inventory records are right.

Step 2: Find the inventory in black holes.

Step 3: Identify and dispose of worthless inventory.

Step 4: Identify and make plans for nearly worthless

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