

R. Baker & Son Marks 85th Anniversary



R. Baker & Son is flourishing after 85 years in business, still considered the go-to contractor for our industry's most challenging projects. Founded in 1935 by Robert "Ruby" Baker, we have continuously emphasized a culture of uncompromising excellence and enduring customer relationships. Since our inception, clients have relied on R. Baker & Son's expansive knowledge and experience when they have difficult rigging and assembly projects, seemingly-impossible demolition challenges, and plant relocations complicated by complex logistics, where there is no room for error. We have built our business by taking on the tough projects that other contractors won't - or can't - do, building the trust and loyalty of customers to whom we owe much of our success.

Every Baker project still merits owner involvement, affording clients a direct line of communication with third-generation owners David and Mark Baker as well as Ruby's son, Walter, who at age 85 still reports to work daily and plays a vital role in day-to-day activities. While experience, expertise, and execution are musts in any business, R. Baker & Son could not have achieved our level of success without the exemplary men and women we've been fortunate enough to work with. Over these years, they have combined their collective energy and dedication to excellence and safety to make R. Baker & Son the best it can be, and their loyalty and integrity cannot be commended enough.

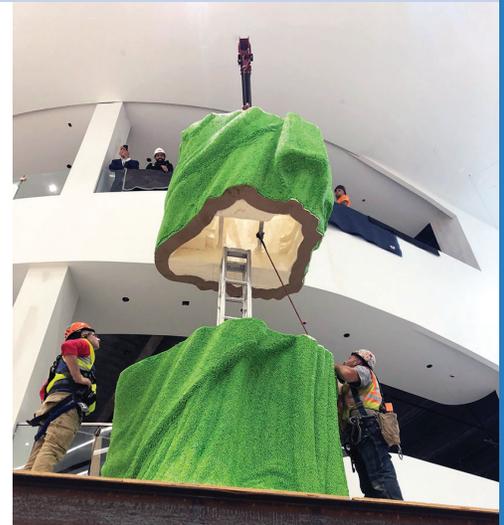
Of course, the object of R. Baker & Son's deepest appreciation is also our greatest strength: our customers. We thank all of you from the bottom of our hearts and look forward to continuing our partnerships for many decades to come.

IT'SUGAR Baker Team Erects 3-Story Statue of Liberty @ American Dream Candy Store

R. Baker & Son has been involved in various projects at American Dream Meadowlands, and most recently we had the sweet task of erecting a 3-story, candy-coated replica of the Statue of Liberty in the new shopping and entertainment mega-complex. The statue, which is encased in hundreds of thousands of hand-applied jelly beans, greets shoppers at the entrance of IT'SUGAR, a new 22,000 sq.-ft. confectionary department store featuring more than 10,000 candy products.

Constructed of five sections of molded foam and reinforced with pipes that also served as picking points, the statue was assembled piece-by-piece atop a 12-ft. high steel pedestal. All picks were made using an electric Spydercrane, a compact, folding

mini-crane that fits through a standard 36-inch door, positioned on a third-floor balcony. Instead of a torch and a tablet, the candy version of Lady Liberty holds aloft an enormous rainbow-colored lollipop in her right hand and a giant chocolate bar in her left.



Floor Leveling & Scarification On Pharma Reno Project

Preparation of floor surfaces is a task often performed by R. Baker & Son on renovation projects. On one such project at a 90,000 sq. ft., 3-story pharmaceutical plant, demolition of interior walls revealed a patchwork of various flooring materials and uneven sections of bare concrete slab. Lips, gaps, and high spots marked areas where floors had been built up along walls to pitch water toward drains, and in other areas, floors were cracked, settled, or otherwise marred. The Baker Team elected to use scarification as their primary method of correcting these issues.

A scarifier, also known as a surface planer or milling machine, employs a multi-tipped cutting wheel made of tungsten carbide or hardened steel to clean, texturize, level, groove, or remove material from concrete surfaces. Scarification effectively removes deteriorated, damaged or contaminated concrete, as well as epoxy, paint, adhesives, and various other coatings. Scarifiers with vacuum systems to capture dust are used in typical applications, while HEPA-equipped scarifying equipment should be used in sensitive environments or when hazardous materials are being removed.

Baker demolition team members first used ride-on and walk-behind floor scrapers to remove areas of ceramic tile, glued-on carpeting, and other materials at the pharmaceutical plant, followed by a BIM scan revealed high spots and built-up areas. Floors were then scarified, leaving behind clean, level, evenly-textured surfaces. After thorough cleanup, uniform concrete surfaces were ready to receive self-leveling overlays.



SAFETY

Prevent Hand Injuries

Hand and arm injuries account for one third of all construction-related injuries. With proper use of job-appropriate PPE, most of these injuries can be prevented, and there are many choices available that are far more comfortable and provide better dexterity and protection than the light-weight cotton or bulky leather gloves of the past.

Different trades require different levels of protection from various hazards, and gloves should be chosen accordingly based on specific need. For example, rigging and demolition workers require gloves that offer

greater resistance to cuts, punctures, and abrasions, while other trades may be more susceptible to chemical hazards, heat, or cold. When dexterity is particularly important, workers should wear gloves that allow them to perform intricate tasks without having to remove them. Vibration-dampening and impact-resistant gloves are recommended for workers who operate equipment such as jackhammers and pneumatic tools that can cause carpal tunnel syndrome and other cumulative trauma disorders.

OSHA requires that employers supply proper hand protection and recommends ANSI standards as a guideline. PPE vendors may also refer to ASTM standards to assist customer selection.