

MACHINE APPRAISAL

ATTACHMENTS

In numerous sectors across our economy, recycling secondary material is established as a potentially lucrative side-line, but there's still a certain amount of resistance from contractors. Skip hire, landfill and transport costs have been turning the tide in our attitudes to waste but that leaves the small matter of how to more economically deal with it yourself. If you're making use of an excavator on site then Worsley Plant believes it has the perfect solution.

Gary Pinkstone is the founder and owner of Pinkstone Homes, a company producing luxury, bespoke properties for a discerning client base in a distinctly well-heeled corner of Cheshire. We caught up with the north-west based property developer at the building of a 7-bed detached, 6,000sq ft. family home, where a Dig A Crusher MB Crushing Bucket from Worsley Plant already hard at work.

Unusually for a contractor of his size, Gary has made the decision to own his own plant rather than rely on hire, and with a definite plan in place to utilise his machines to the maximum, it's a policy that is paying dividends. "I already own a JCB JS 160 excavator, two EC 55 compact Volvos, a new 2.4 tonne CAT mini, and a Liebherr tower crane, and each of them does enough work to justify the investment," he explains.

"For me the key is to make sure that you get the most from those machines. If all the JS 160 can do is dig holes then it becomes an expensive outlay. Add a few attachments and then you've got a tool carrier for a multitude of tasks and that's why I initially approached Worsley Plant." The Attachment Specialist's Dig A Crusher MB Bucket was ably demonstrating that very point as it was eagerly chewing through anything from granite slabs to concrete and waste roof tiles, which were either a waste by-product of this site or were being brought in from neighbouring Pinkstone Homes' project.

Space saving

"I've got no use for a static crusher because they're just too cumbersome for some of the tight spaces we work in and if you've already got an excavator on site then acquiring a Dig A Crusher MB makes far more sense. We're crushing relatively small amounts – but regularly, and if you're processing anything under 20 tonnes of material it's ideal, because the savings are far from insignificant. In fact, we estimate that it will easily have paid for itself in four years."

Those savings include the cost of bringing in hardcore, skip hire for waste material, and associated transport overheads. "On this job, for instance, we lifted the old drive and ran it through the screener. As a result, instead of sending 10 loads away at £150 a load for waste collection, we only sent three loads at £130,



Sean Heron (left) of Worsley Plant and Gary Pinkstone (right) of Pinkstone Homes



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add to that a £700 saving of buying back in hardcore, and the fact that everything was processed and crushed in two days, and it really starts to pay for itself.

"All the sub base on this job has been through the Crushing Bucket and it's all good clean material. It will also separate metal as well, which soon mounts up, even on small loads, so there's more to be made there. That money actually goes into the lads Christmas do and you'd be amazed what they don't waste if they're buying beer with it."

"Most builders would look at a load of granite paving slab off cuts or concrete and dismiss it as a load of rubbish," continues Gary, as another load of waste is tipped from the company's twin wheel transit. "By contrast all off cuts on any of our jobs are put to the side – because to me it's money. I've had this unit a year now and I calculate I'm already over £8,000 up, I've spent nothing on maintenance, it reduces our costs with demolition contractors and there's also the environmental impact of all the lorries and landfill to consider."

The range

Whatever fits into the bucket's insatiable appetite will be crushed, whether its kerbstones, reinforced concrete, or fence posts. Any rebar gets stripped rather than tangled and if you do encounter a blockage you can simply turn the bucket upside down to work it loose, which you simply can't do with a large static alternative. From a safety point of view the operator is enclosed securely in the cab, rather than working over the jaws of a crusher, and it's ideal for work in confined areas.

Across the Dig A Crusher MB range there's eight models, suitable for excavators, skid loaders and backhoe loaders from 3.5 to 70 tonnes. The Pinkstone Homes Dig A Crusher MB 600 has a minimum excavator weight of 10 tonnes, a jaw adjustment of 20 – 10mm, and a 0.5m³ bucket capacity, with a gross weight of 1.5 tonnes.

"If Worsley offered to give me my money back and take the Crushing Bucket away then I'd refuse point blank," concludes the Pinkstone Homes proprietor enthusiastically. "And the reason for that is that losing it would be costing me thousands a year. As a company we judge all of our equipment on a three or four year plan and in that context I believe in this product and stand by its ability to cut our overheads."

i For further information on Worsley Plant use the reader enquiry number below

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