

PRODUCTS

Dumpster for Small Jobs

Buy the 3-yard bag, call for pickup

by Scott Gibson

Demolition isn't much fun to begin with, and then getting rid of the old decking, decrepit porch rails, and rotten framing presents its own problems — you may, for instance, have too little debris to justify the rental of a full-sized Dumpster but too much for your pickup to handle comfortably.

Waste Management, the largest waste company in North America, has a suggestion: Buy one of its Bagsters, fill it up, and arrange for its removal by calling Waste Management. The bag and its contents will be gone within three business days.

The “Dumpsters in a Bag” are made from a highly durable woven material that won't rip even if punctured, according to the company. They can hold up to 3 cubic yards and 3,300 pounds of debris, including full sheets of plywood.

Bagsters can be purchased at some home improvement centers and hardware stores (a list is available at thebagster.com) for about \$30. When you're ready for pickup, a local subsidiary of Waste Management will



drive to the job site and collect the full Bagster. Pickup rates vary by market, from about \$80 to \$160. The total cost is between 50 percent and 70 percent less than the cost of renting a conventional dumpster, Waste Management says.

Bagsters are currently available in 38 states. Among participating retailers are The Home Depot, Lowe's, Ace Hardware, True Value, and Do-It-Best Store. They're also available in Canada.

Scott Gibson is a writer in East Waterboro, Maine.

■ **Waste Management**, 877/789-2247, thebagster.com.

Outdoor LEDs

Lower operating costs, longer life

Outdoor lighting complements good deck designs, and RAB Lighting now offers an LED (light-emitting diode) floodlight that can use up to 70 percent less energy than a comparable halogen fixture.

LEDs have extremely long life as well as low operating costs. Even after 50,000 hours of use, the LEDs will put out 70 percent of their initial light, according to RAB.

The LFLOOD carries a five-year warranty and is UL listed for wet locations. It's available in both 10-watt and 13-watt versions. The 13-watt lamp compares to a 100-watt halogen or metal halide fixture; the 10-watt lamp compares to a 60-watt halogen.

The fixture comes with a field-switchable reflector — allowing it to be used as either a floodlight or a spotlight — and a glare shield, to control light output. The die-cast housings come in four colors: bronze, verde green, white, and black.

Costs are higher than for conventional fluorescent or incandescent fixtures, but your customer won't be climbing a ladder anytime soon to change a bulb. The 10-watt fixture retails for \$142; the 13-watt for \$177. — S.G.



■ **RAB Lighting**, 888/722-1000, rabweb.com.

PRODUCTS

Structural Vinyl Columns

Dressing up a porch



Finished columns are an attractive detail for a porch, but fabricating them on site with a structural pressure-treated core and a wood or vinyl wrap is time consuming. CertainTeed seeks to address that problem with three new structural PVC columns that go up quickly and offer the advantages of low maintenance and weather resistance.

The new columns are compatible with CertainTeed's Oxford, Kingston, and EverNew railings and have larger diameters than existing columns in the product line. They come in three cross sections: round tapers, with 8-inch and 10-inch diameters; non-tapered rounds with 8-inch diameters; and 8-inch squares. Coordinating cap and base trim sets are available.

Columns are sold in 108-inch lengths, good for up to a 9-foot-tall porch. Reinforced with aluminum, the PVC columns will support up to 18,000 pounds each. The white vinyl exterior eliminates the need to paint or seal after installation, and you won't have to worry about the columns degrading due to wet weather or insects. Because of the high load carrying capacity, CertainTeed says, the cost of these columns will range between \$250 and \$325.

CertainTeed also says it's beefing up its CertainSnap post-wrap line with a new wood-grain texture in white and almond that coordinates with its Edgewood railing products. — S.G.

■ **CertainTeed**, 800/233-8990, certainteed.com.

Fibrex Railings

Two-part top rail makes for a good fit



Green Bay Decking's Integra Rail kits have several features designed for flexible and accurate installation, including a two-part top rail and hidden brackets.

Integra Rail is made with Fibrex, a patented composite of wood and plastic polymer with resistance to rot and insect damage, and a low rate of thermal expansion and contraction. It was originally developed by Andersen Windows.

Hidden brackets — made from stainless steel — can be used on level surfaces, stairs, and angled rails. The two-part top rail allows for the installation of the structural subrail first. A second measurement is taken for the beverage-friendly cap rail, just in case installation of the subrail moved the posts.

Balusters are mechanically attached to the rails, so they won't spin or rattle. Options include round aluminum balusters in seven colors with a powder-coated matte finish; square composite balusters in five colors; and clear tempered-glass balusters.

Rail kits come in lengths of 6 feet and 8 feet and include connectors and hardware. Green Bay Decking says it will also continue to produce its GeoDeck composite railing, which matches its four GeoDeck composite deck board colors.

A 6-foot railing kit retails for \$231. — S.G.

■ **Green Bay Decking**, 877/804-0137, integrarail.com. ❖