

LEAN LINE



Prefabrication Boosts Production

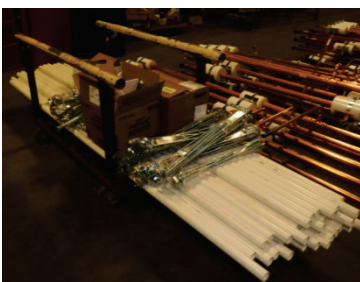
Grunau's experience has taught us that the more material that can be prefabricated before it arrives at the jobsite, the more productive and cost-effective a job can be. We've used prefabrication since the 1970's but have stepped up the efforts in more recent years.

Northwestern Mutual

Northwestern Mutual insurance is currently renovating a nearby office building in downtown Milwaukee and Grunau has multiple trades on site including pipe fitting, sheet metal, plumbing, fire protection, and underground site utilities. Each trade has thought of ways to make this job more productive and it is evident with some of the prefabrication that can be seen in the photos here.



Prefabricated in Grunau's shop



Quickly installed at the jobsite

Prefabrication Benefits

- Improves Job Productivity
- Decreases Project Schedule
- Saves Significant Time
- Saves Costs
- Increases Safety
- Error-Proofs Installation
- Reaps Advantages of a Controlled Shop Environment
- Positively Impacts Overall Quality
- Eliminates Missing Parts
- Provides Standardization
- Allows Easier Recycling of Materials
- Reduces Material Scrap
- Reduces Waste

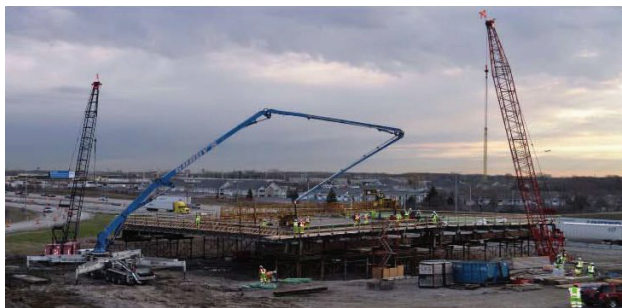


Photo courtesy of WisDOT

Rawson Avenue staging area (west of I-94)

Rawson Avenue Bridge

Another application of prefabrication can be seen right down the street from our Oak Creek headquarters where road construction is changing the Rawson Avenue and I-94 interchange. As drivers navigate the limited one-lane traffic, dodging safety cones and workmen in bright yellow vests, they have to wonder why the new bridge is being built a few hundred feet away from the current roadway. The Wisconsin Dept of Transportation (WisDOT) is using the same innovative method as Grunau does with prefabricating the bridge in 2 separate staging areas on either side of the busy I-94 interstate.

The bridge spans will then be lifted by a state-of-the-art Self-Propelled Modular Transport (SPMT), using a simple hand-held control panel, and rolled into place at a walking pace. With this procedure, WisDOT says the roadways can open in a matter of hours rather than days or months like traditional road construction. It is also safer for workers to construct the bridge out of traffic, and safer for drivers with limited crews working overhead major traffic.

Customer Value

Better safety, improved efficiency, and quicker production, with no loss of quality, is what provides better value to the customer. Remember that the customer pays our wages, so be creative with prefabrication and help our customers hire Grunau back for the next job.