

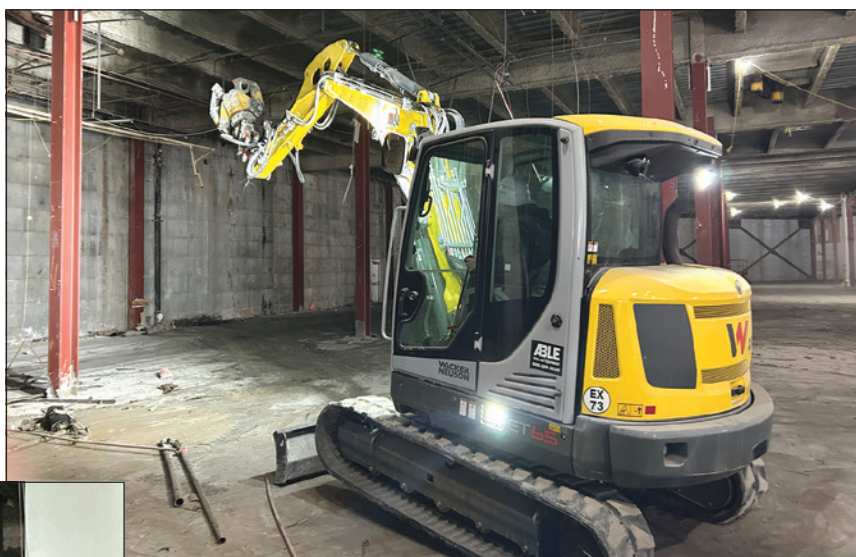


Able Tool & Equipment Delivers Specialized Solution for Challenging Holyoke Mall Demolition

When Associated Building Wreckers began interior demolition work at the former Sears building at Holyoke Mall in Holyoke, Mass., the company faced a familiar challenge: how to safely and efficiently remove overhead mechanical systems, escalators, elevators and structural components inside an active redevelopment project.

Rather than relying on traditional labor-intensive methods involving workers in lifts cutting materials overhead, Associated Building Wreckers turned to a longtime partner, Able Tool & Equipment, for a specialized rental solution designed to improve productivity while enhancing jobsite safety.

Able Tool & Equipment assembled a specialized package centered around a Wacker Neuson ET65 compact excavator equipped with a *two-piece boom* and additional hydraulic capabilities to operate a rotating attachment. The excavator was paired with a *DARDA shear/crusher attachment* featuring interchangeable heads and pressure-boosting technology capable of delivering *impressive cutting and crushing power* from a compact carrier.



The DARDA shear/crusher attachment with interchangeable heads and a pressure-boosting concept allows high power on smaller carriers.

The combination allowed Associated Building Wreckers to attack overhead mechanical systems — including ductwork, electrical systems, plumbing and sprinkler lines — directly from the excavator seat once ceilings had been removed.

Instead of placing multiple workers in aerial lifts to cut materials overhead and then deploying additional labor to handle debris after it reached the floor, the Able Tool solution allowed a single operator to quickly cut the material to come down and it would fall safely away from all parties.

The result was fewer workers exposed to hazards at elevation, fewer material handling steps and significantly improved production rates.

Once the overhead systems were removed, **Able Tool quickly exchanged the steel-cutting attachment for a concrete crushing attachment**, allowing Associated Building Wreckers to move directly into demolition of the building's large elevator shaft without missing a beat.

What made the project especially impressive was that virtually all this interior demolition work was completed using a compact 6-ton excavator operating inside the structure.

The partnership between Associated Building Wreckers and Able Tool & Equipment is on full display at the contractor's recent project at Holyoke Mall, where a former two-story Sears building is being transformed for a new tenant — Dick's Sporting Goods.

According to Able Tool owner Derek Bauer, investments in specialized attachment technology are designed to provide contractors with practical alternatives to larger, more expensive solutions.

"Our goal is to provide contractors with right-sized equipment solutions," Bauer explained. "There are situations where remote-controlled demolition machines can be effective, but they may not always be the most productive or economical option. By pairing a skilled operator with a compact excavator and specialized attachment, contractors can often complete the work faster, more safely and at a lower overall cost."

The Holyoke Mall project also demonstrated one of the primary reasons contractors rely on Able Tool & Equipment: access to specialized equipment without the burden of ownership.

Associated Building Wreckers owns large shears and demolition attachments for exterior work, but niche interior demolition applications arise infrequently enough that purchasing dedicated equipment often doesn't make financial sense. Renting allows the company to utilize the latest technology while maintaining flexibility.

Beyond specialty attachments, Able Tool regularly supports contractors with electric mini-excavators, battery-powered loaders, tracked carriers, compact dumpers and other specialized equipment designed for interior demolition and difficult-access applications.

For contractors facing increasingly complex demolition challenges, the Holyoke Mall project serves as an example of how the right equipment, combined with the right support, can improve safety, reduce labor requirements and accelerate project schedules.

In this case, the partnership between Associated Building Wreckers and Able Tool & Equipment delivered exactly that — a safer, faster and more efficient demolition solution. ■ CEG

(All photos courtesy of Associated Building Wreckers and Able Tool & Equipment.)