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## Haas Sons

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Take the right amount of cement, add a select quantity of a quality grade of aggregate, blend in water, and mix well. Do it right, and the end result is a concrete that when hardened will stand the test of time.



*Gary, Phil and Steve have grown Haas Sons into an operation currently employing 115 employees.* Take a hard-working dad with a dream, who begins by hauling lime and gravel products back in 1963. Stir in four brothers coming out of high school in the early '80s, who have been brought up learning the trade as they work alongside, add the willingness to expand into crushing and washing and go out on their own - and a premier ready-mix operation is born.

The dad was Dave Haas and the four brothers ; Steve, Phil, Darrel and Gary ð have grown Haas Sons into an operation currently employing 115 employees and servicing a clientele expanding out to cover a one-hundred mile radius from its corporate headquarters at 203 E. Birch Street in Thorp, WI.



*Here is a few of the dump trucks on our lot.*

With a portable crushing plant that can operate and produce approximately 1,000,000 tons per year at any of the innumerable gravel pits within their 100 mile operating radius, a fleet of forty quad-axle dump trucks, fifteen nine-yard front discharge in-transit mixer trucks, and Cat, Volvo, and Kobelco backhoes and excavators, this is an outfit that is ready to handle everything from the smallest to the largest of tasks as it supplies both residential and commercial customers.

"We first began operations back in the '80s with a jaw roll plant," said Phil Haas, the second oldest of the brothers, "Then we just began adding more and more with an MVP 550 Cone Crusher and a Nordberg 30-55 jaw until we ended up where we are today, servicing the sand and gravel pits and producing some of the finest road gravel for heavy construction."



Haas's fleet of ready-mix trucks has poured numerous bridges for local townships, multiple office buildings, the Victory Memorial Hospital in Stanley, WI, and even the local prison/correctional institution in Stanley. "Our breaker starts with some big rocks," continued Phil, "usually three-footers and crushes them down to six-inch. Then the six-inch minus goes into the 550 which grinds it down until it ends up on our 7x20 Dual LJ screening plant. Now it's ready to supply the ready-mix plants with the wash material they need." After the aggregate is produced, it can be hauled off to one of Haas's two wash plants that are located in Thorp and Eau Claire where it can be combined with the Portland cement coming from Lafarge in Minnesota. With two ready-mix plants as well, Haas is fully geared up to serve all of its clients from the smallest to the largest, from the homeowner to Menards, one of the prime suppliers and distribution centers for building materials in the area.



*This is the office located in Thorp, WI.*

On top of this, Haas's fleet of ready-mix trucks has poured numerous bridges for local townships, multiple office buildings, the Victory Memorial Hospital in Stanley, WI, and even the local prison/correctional institution in Stanley ; and for that one, there is no doubt they had to be producing a seriously solid product. Pouring concrete in the northern part of the United States is not without its challenges during the colder months, but even this becomes a minor matter in the hands of the Haas brothers. "We just use heated water to keep everything from freezing and add some chloride to accelerate the hardening. We can have a four- to five-inch pour set-up and be ready for troweling within two hours and be ready for the framers the next day," said Phil.

Like all successful businesses, Haas Sons is well aware that there are three primary ingredients to be combined into the mix. The first is doing what you know best and in this case it's concrete. Not only do they run their ready-mix operation, they are also heavily involved with the municipal infrastructure of the numerous surrounding areas. By providing the underground utility work for sub-divisions, the ripping out and installation of sewer and water systems, the curb gutters for the new roadways, and even the sidewalks, the Haas brothers literally know what it means to help build the community. The second component involves keeping the equipment operating at peak efficiency, and to accomplish this they start by employing half a dozen of their own mechanics to maintain their trucks and equipment at their yards in both Thorp and Eau Claire. But maintenance is only the latter half of this particular battle; the first part is avoiding it in the first place. And for this, they rely heavily on the services of the RB Scott Company and Argonics, Inc.'s performance polyurethanes for wear parts and for the blades and wipers systems in use on all of their conveyors.

"Keeping the belt clear of the sand, clay, and gravel that can build up is what's important. With a wiper blade that's about six inches high mounted on a pivot point and spring loaded, pressure is maintained, the belt is wiped clean, and all materials fall into the next transfer point so that nothing is wasted," explained Phil before going on to explain about their next area of preventive maintenance.



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Employing a truly pro-active approach to the life of their equipment, Haas Sons is a big believer in wear pads. These 18x9 inch square pads are strategically placed at the key wear points where falling rock and gravel hits the hoppers. By lining the hoppers with these one-inch thick pads from **Argonics**, the equipment is always well-protected.

As for the third ingredient in building a strong organization, well, that is both intangible and yet perhaps the most necessary of all. It comes from loving what you do and caring about both the people you work with and who work for you. Born and bred into the business, Steve, Phil, Darrel and Gary not only learned the rudiments from their Dad, but now they in turn are beginning to introduce their sons into Haas Sons, continuing the line of a family owned business who make it their business to work well together.

Yesterday it was their dad Dave and hauling. Today it is four brothers running an all-in-one operation with a portable crushing plant to travel to the pits and quarries and fully set up wash plants and ready-mix plants in two different locations, Thorp and Eau Claire.