

The chunks of old floor screed being shovelled into the 450kg payload skip of one of the electric Truxta Bendies.

## MATERIALS HANDLING EQUIPMENT

# ELECTRIC AVENUE

The electric version of the small Truxta 4x4 Bendie dumper has proved invaluable to a company specialising in commercial and retail property strip-outs. Nick Johnson reports.

**W**hilst the version of the Truxta 4x4 Bendie micro site dumper with the Honda petrol engine remains the most popular, sales of the unit with an electric motor are increasing. As more companies seek to become 'greener', the electric dumper scores by providing quiet, fume-free operation.

One company that is full of praise for the electric Truxta Bendie is 3D Stripout of Putney in London. It bought four units to complete the strip out of a retail unit inside the large Westfield indoor shopping centre in West London and Project Manager Max Lombardi says that the machines work incredibly well.

The Westfield job involved the night time removal of 120 tonnes of old floor screed that have been broken up inside a 1,000m<sup>2</sup> retail unit that was changing users. 3D Stripout had 10 nights to complete the operation (working from 2.30am to 7.30am) and the material had to be moved 500m. The winding route at the back of the retail unit included sharp right angle bends, long internal corridors and the use of a service lift to get from Retail Level 1 to the ground floor where the material had to be tipped into a roll-on-off waste skip located in one of the unloading bays.

After the floor screed had been broken up with a small self-propelled Sherpa electric breaker it was hand-loaded into the 450kg payload skips of the Truxta Bendie dumpers.



The old floor screed had to be moved along a 500m route which included changing floors in this goods lift.

These pedestrian controlled machines are only 850mm wide, and their articulated steering means they can be easily manoeuvred around tight corners and into confined spaces such as a service lift.

At Westfield the Truxtas were able to move the old screed material quickly from the retail unit being revamped to the waste skip at the lower level without leaving any fumes in the corridors. The battery powered machines were left on charge during the day and Max Lombardi reports that they then had the capability to work continuously for one and half eight hour shifts which provided a good margin of use on this time critical job.

The machines have proved very reliable and the only modifications made by 3D Stripout have been the fitting of greedy boards to increase capacity and to fit a horn and amber beacon. The company has a couple of the smaller 300kg payload skips which, when fitted and the dumper's wheels reversed, reduce machine width to 725mm for work in very confined spaces.

Ron Blackhurst of Truxta Bendie maker Tufftruk of Sheen in Derbyshire says that the electric version now accounts for 25 per cent of sales. Given the continuing development of mega basements in London and the pioneering work being done by 3D Stripout in the retail unit refurbishment sector, the use of these productive fume-free and quiet machines should continue to increase.



Once at ground floor level the old floor screed was tipped into a waste skip positioned in one of the unloading bays.

**F** For more information on the Truxta use the reader enquiry number below

**CIRCLE READERLINK 059**