

WORK STATION CRANES IN ACTION: MOVING LARGE GRANITE SLABS

Industry	Fabricated Stone Products
SIC	3281
Application	Moving large stone slabs to a CNC machine for custom cutting
Solution	Work Station Crane with 1000 lb. Aluminum Bridge
Results	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Increased productivity• Increased job satisfaction• Decreased risk of personal injury• Decreased product damage

Application:

Moving Granite Slabs Through A Facility

Before the installation of the Gorbel® Crane, the large stone slabs were loaded and unloaded by hand or with fork trucks. Both methods caused problems with space, safety, and productivity. Not to mention the stress caused by the fact that the slabs are hand picked by the customer and any damage to the slab would be a very costly and time-consuming mistake.

Challenge:

Slabs Are Huge And Difficult To Handle

The slabs of granite are huge - weighing up to 1000# - and are often oddly shaped.

"We'd place a large slab on a dolly, balance it as best we could, and physically move it from the saw. Usually, it took four men to accomplish that. The procedure would bring the shop to a standstill." - Keith Rose, West Central Granite

There were several problems with this procedure:

- Obviously, this was a huge job and was very physically taxing on the people lifting these massive slabs. Imagine the potential for injuries if this slab had dropped on any of them.
- When the pieces were manually lifted, the potential for product damage was great. The results of such damage? A costly piece of unusable material and an angry customer who will have to hand pick a different piece.

- The larger pieces were moved with a fork truck. Workers would have to take time to clear a path to drive past computers and equipment in very tight quarters. It was a dangerous situation and took away from the overall productivity of the facility.

Solution:

Free Standing Work Station Crane

A Free Standing Work Station Bridge Crane with a 1000# aluminum bridge and chain hoist was installed.

"I wish I had purchased it along time ago. I didn't realize just how many extra benefits the crane was going to provide." - Keith Rose, West Central Granite

Results:

- Productivity has increased due to the ease of movement made possible with the crane system.
- The job now takes one worker instead of 3.
- The risks of personal injury and product damage are greatly reduced.
- The operators love the easy to move crane. It's definitely less tiring than manually lifting 1000#.
- The company has been able to recruit and retain good employees.

