

Ask the **Expert**

What makes aluminum such a sustainable material for access? One of EZ-**ACCESS's first** commercial ramps, installed in South Florida, is still in use today. The very nature of aluminum's long-lasting qualities make it one of the greenest building materials on the market. We spend just as much time designing systems to replace outdated ramps made from wood or concrete as we do new access systems for new

sites. These other

building materials just can't compete with the longevity of aluminum. Even the most cared for wood ramps typically have a lifespan of only six to eight years and, depending on where they're installed, the climate's severity could lessen that timeline. Replacing a wood ramp with wood means using even more materials that will end up in the landfill. Made in the US, our aluminum

systems can be rein another place, cycled, and our duyou'll find virtually rable components, no evidence that you ever deployed them elsewhere. trafffic, can be reused, unlike wood. The system's legs are also independently adjusttermites are just a able so they can few elements that can damage wood accommodate the ramps. Rotten and ground's natural features, elimimust be replaced, nating the need for extensive site screws and nails leveling. that begin to loos-Finally, because en and protrude we manufacture must be drilled or

Mike Johnson

When it comes to safe, accessible solutions for

sites that are also environmentally friendly, alu-

minum is king. Wood, steel, and concrete ramps

experience wear and tear from inclement weath-

er and even general use. The **EZ-ACCESS** team examined all of the possible building materials when designing their ramps, but aluminum was the clear winner, according to Mike Johnson, national vice president of commercial and industrial sales. Aluminum lasts the longest once installed, and it won't end up in a landfill or burned like wood once all is said and done. Johnson recently shared with us just how sustainable aluminum is compared to other materials when used to

construct ramp systems.

built for high

Sun, rain, and

warped planks

and hazardous

nailed back into

labor-and mate-

rials-you could

eliminate if you

used aluminum.

contributes to

Site impact also

sustainability, and

EZ-ACCESS systems

have minimal to no

site impact at all.

Using lightweight

aluminum ramp

the need to pour

or drill holes into

the site. And if you

redeploy the ramps

concrete footers

systems eliminates

place. That's extra

Vice President of Commercial and

Industrial Sales, EZ-ACCESS

these aluminum ramps ourselves, we're bound to a first-class standard, and we don't take that lightly, whereas a contractor has less connection to the wood ramp they're installing. We're confident in our ramps' abilities to stand the test of time.

Read more from EZ-ACCESS in the Fall 2020 issue of gb&d, when Johnson looks at **how** aluminum contributes to compliance





100 SUMMER 2020

Approximately 34% of the extruded aluminum products EZ-ACCESS receives from their aluminum supplier is produced with recycled secondary aluminum-either post-consumer or production scrapwhich requires significantly less energy to produce than the primary metal