

GO, SPEED RACER, GO

When you're working to complete a parking lot before a big-box retailer opens their doors for business, every minute is vital: For the retailer, for your company, and for the general contractor who hired you. And speedy completion is the exact challenge Gallagher Asphalt needs to overcome while laying down quality asphalt for a massive 110,000-square-yard parking lot for the new Home Depot® warehouse distribution center in Joliet, Illinois.

Gallagher Asphalt gets the lead out with help from their fleet-footed 764 HSD

When racing against Father Time, necessity is the mother of invention. In this case that invention is the first new machine form in decades — the up-to-16-mph Deere 764 High-Speed Dozer. General Superintendent Chris Wirkus explains: "We are always the last ones in there with the least amount of time to do our aspect of the work. That's why we need to have fast and reliable equipment to get our job done without slowing down any of the other trades."

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"The hydraulics are very responsive," says Operator Mike Woss in a jiff. "I definitely like this dozer." Then, he's off and running another super-quick cycle.

"The 764's (standard) Integrated Grade Control system is a huge advantage. It saves on labor because we don't need people pulling string line every 50 feet — very expensive in Chicago."

— General Superintendent
Chris Wirkus



Time and money

Charged with grading and laying the asphalt for a massive parking lot in Northeastern Illinois, Wirkus and his crew have more than time to worry about. As if the impending opening date for the facility isn't enough, when scheduling Chicago-area labor — among the highest paid in the nation — time is money. Big money. And that's why Gallagher is trying out a new 764 HSD.

"We acquired the dozer because of its potential to boost our productivity," says Superintendent of Operations Jim Trost. "With the cost of labor in this area, anything we can do to improve our productivity gives us a competitive advantage."

Fast company

Right off the bat, the HSD starts breaking the contractor's tons-per-hour records, starting with a trophy in the coveted CA6-road-mix-laid-in-a-day category — formerly 12,000 tons in 12 hours, now 13,100 in the same time frame. "The first day of spreading stone we did 7,100 tons," says Project Super Terry Sullivan. "When we saw what the machine could do, we doubled our trucks on the site and ended up laying over 13,000 tons on day two. When you dump, place, and compact over 1,000 tons of base stone in an hour, you're making time." And money, no doubt.

Faster than a speeding grader

Previously, when using a motor grader to spread stone, the Gallagher crew would have to slow down their dump trucks to gradually drop their load as they moved across the grade. With the 764 HSD's speed and breakout forces, it's now quicker for the trucks to dump their whole load and let the dozer do the spreading. Sullivan says, "As far as bombing in stone like we're doing here, there is no comparison. The 764 beats a blade hands down!"

Deere says it's the articulated-frame steering and the four-track oscillating undercarriage that makes the 764 HSD so maneuverable. And they like to point out how the long-life rubber tracks enable it to traverse pavements with no damage to the surface. "The 764 is very maneuverable, and those rubber tracks let us cross surfaces a traditional dozer would destroy," Wirkus agrees. "It is a very quick, versatile, efficient, and powerful machine."



Easing labor pains with Integrated Grade Control

Besides the dozer's ability to eliminate the need for multiple machines — standard dozer, grader, and truck/trailer, for example — and pricey skilled or licensed operators, Gallagher Asphalt has found another dollar-squeezing feature on the HSD. "It comes plug-and-play ready for the Integrated Grade Control system of your choice, and GPS makes the machine cut to grade much quicker," offers Wirkus.

Then Sullivan put the icing on the cake for us. "Look, Gallagher is a progressive company always on the lookout for new technology that makes us more productive and profitable. And with the John Deere 764 HSD, I think we found the right machine." >>

Gallagher Asphalt is serviced by West Side Tractor Sales Co., South Holland, Illinois.

"After putting the 764 HSD through the paces at Deere's training grounds in Iowa, we quickly realized that it has the potential to really boost our productivity while placing stone base on large jobs."

— Superintendent of Operations
Jim Trost