

# DIG THIS...



## Recycling Adding to Profitability

### Cargo Container Buildings

An emerging trend in construction might be the use of shipping cargo containers as residential and commercial building units. Leslie Horn, CEO of Three Squared Inc., a development company slated to build more than \$109 million in cargo container projects over the next 24 months across North America, says a surplus of 700,000 used shipping containers are stockpiled in the U.S.

Horn notes that the containers are durable, versatile, building code-friendly and available for as little as \$900 each. Made of steel and wood, the containers are stronger

than conventional framing, resistant to the elements and originally built with an interlocking design for stacking up to 12 high. Modular construction is accomplished by simply positioning them. They are being used to build homes, offices, apartments, schools, dormitories and shops across the world. The structures made from them can be easily disassembled, moved and reassembled.

### Rubberized Roads

If you're a paving contractor who isn't using asphalt containing shredded tire rubber as an ingredient, you might want to consider doing so. The Rubberized Asphalt Foundation (RAF) reports that 70 percent of state transportation agencies have used rubber-modified asphalt, and that the material can save \$2 to \$5 per ton compared to conventional asphalt.

Also, a recent study by the National Center for Asphalt Technology found that the rubberized asphalt manufacturing process, whether cryogenic or ambient, does not reduce the performance of the material. Richard Willis, NCAT's assistant research professor, notes, "By increasing the use of ground tire rubber, asphalt producers will benefit from price stability as compared to more volatile oil prices which impact the cost of traditional, oil-based polymers."

