

NEW TO THE TEAM



MARYELLEN BALL

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Designing Hospitality has announced that Maryellen Ball has joined the company as a Junior Interior Designer. Prior to joining the team, she completed an internship with Designing Hospitality in the summer of 2007.

Her responsibilities include assisting on

design projects and choosing materials, and brings to the company her knowledge of CAD, Architectural Desktop and Adobe Photoshop.

Maryellen is currently pursuing a 4-year Bachelor of Interior Design degree from New York Institute of Technology, and is a member of The American Society of Interior Designers.

BUYING A WALK-IN COOLER OR FREEZER

When making a decision on which walk-in cooler or freezer to buy, there are many things that must be considered. In the following we hope to go through all these considerations and provide you with the information you need to make an informed decision.

WHAT IS IMPORTANT TO YOU:

Most walk-in coolers and freezers manufactured today are constructed of foam insulation bonded between two sheets of sheet metal and come equipped with cam locking devices to allow the assembly of the panelized walk-in on site.

There are a few companies that also provide a completely assembled unit that is delivered on a truck and dropped off at your location. These are usually for outside the building installations. Refrigeration systems are also usually provided in several types of configurations along with the walk-ins. These systems will be explained later.

When considering the purchase of a walk-in, you must consider what is important to you. If a low, up-front price is most important due to budgetary consideration, then the up-front price may be a very important consideration in buying your walk-in. (Usually lower costing walk-ins have a lower up-front cost, but when considering the higher energy expenses they may cost more over the life of the unit). If overall cost of the walk-in over the life of the unit is important, then a little higher up-front cost but lower energy use and maintenance cost over the life of the unit may be the way to go. Either way you go, quality workmanship and materials are a must when buying a walk-in.

Make your decision on your needs and not what someone is trying to sell you. After all, customer needs are not the same, one product does not fit all.

OUTDOOR APPLICATIONS:

Cooler and freezer refrigeration systems that are installed outdoors require a winter kit. This kit provides a compressor cover, a crank case heater to keep the oil in the compressor warm so the compressor will operate properly in cold weather, and a fan cycle control will keep the head pressure at the proper levels.

Outdoor coolers and freezers need to have a rain roof installed to prevent water from leaking into the box. A rain roof can be of a single membrane polyester polyvinyl chloride roof system with connectors and a drip cap for the door, or it can be metal flashing that installs over the roof seam to prevent water from leaking into the box.

WALK-IN COOLERS AND FREEZERS WITHOUT A FLOOR

Walk-in coolers and freezers sometimes come without a floor. Special precautions need to be taken to eliminate future problems. Walk-in coolers and freezers without a floor must be installed on a ground contact concrete floor. A cooler can be installed without insulating the floor and a thermal break under each wall panel but we recommend installing both. A freezer must be installed on an insulated concrete floor and must include a thermal break under each wall panel. An engineer or architect in your area will be required for the final design of your pad to meet local code approvals. If these precautions are taken you should have trouble free performance with your walk-in floor.

MANUFACTURER:

No matter what walk-in system you buy, one of the most important decisions is deciding which manufacturer to purchase from. There are a lot of manufacturers of walk-in coolers and freezers. They all have their niche in the walk-in industry. The amount of service they offer the end user varies. Look for a walk-in company that has these traits:

1. They should have clear quotes with an itemized listing of the items provided.
2. Their location and shipping cost need to be clearly spelled out. Shipping is a very important item in figuring up-front cost of the project.
3. Check the warranty clearly so that you know what is covered should problems occur.
4. Make sure they are NSF and UL approved.

CONCLUSION:

Buying a walk-in cooler or freezer can be a large investment. Make sure you are totally informed before making a decision. Make sure you buy what you need and not what a salesperson is trying to sell you. Remember you are the one that will have to live with the walk-in you choose.

FEATURED PROJECT

KITCHEN KABARET

Designing Hospitality worked with Kitchen Kabaret to develop their second location, as they've expanded to Long Island's South Shore. The new Bay Shore location offers fine foods and catering, and has a variety of gourmet stations such as a specialty deli, to-go case, bakery, salad bar, smoothie bar, cappuccino bar, and brick oven pizza station.



THINKING OF A NEW LOOK OR NEED TO UPGRADE? GIVE US A CALL.
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