



# Dealing With Unnecessary Waste

New technology helps septic installation specialist streamline their workflow



## Company

Eccard Excavating, LLC  
Pleasantville, Ohio

## Project

Ongoing septic installations  
Central Ohio

## Topcon Solutions

MC-Mobile, Layout Navigator (LN)

## Topcon Dealer

GeoShack  
Columbus, Ohio

Cody Eccard is all about efficiency. As owner of Pleasantville, Ohio-based Eccard Excavating, LLC, he heads up a team of five who specialize in commercial and residential septic installation and repair, excavation, and utilities installation. For the bulk of his seven years in business, his approach to septic installs has been self-described as rudimentary, traditional, and labor-intensive. From the outset, aside from calling on some friends for occasional help, Eccard found himself doing much of the work himself which made the process particularly grueling.

"In the early days, I used a regular laser transit to get my elevations, and marked those points with paint or flags," he said. "Depending on the complexity of the job, layout could easily take three to four hours. Then, if I

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was alone on a project, I would dig 10 to 20 feet, hop out of the machine to go back to verify the elevation, hop back in the machine, and so on. That made for a very long day."

As the company grew, Eccard was frustrated that his workers' time was often not efficiently utilized.

"First of all there is the hours-long wait for layout to be completed, during which I often had three or four men standing around," he said. "Then, even when we would begin excavation, one man would spend the better part of the day just holding a grade rod, making occasional checks. And those checks were most often in a hole which often can be a safety concern. I knew there had to be a better way to do what we did."

Eccard said he did a decent amount of research to find that "better way," including looking at some indicate systems currently offered for smaller machines like his Kubota KX-080. "Those looked promising, but they didn't allow for growth, weren't swappable with other machines and, most importantly, didn't provide the layout capability I needed," he said. "I was hitting a brick wall until a friend suggested I contact GeoShack, the local Topcon dealer. When I did, it changed everything."



It's worth noting that, despite being a believer in technology for the workplace, Eccard had no experience with such solutions. Not knowing what to expect, he was pleasantly surprised after the GeoShack representative showed him Topcon MC-Mobile.

"When I saw the layout capabilities of Topcon MC-Mobile — the way I could just go on site, lay out the job, and have the guy in the machine see it all — I knew it was exactly what I needed."

The process Eccard describes aligns perfectly with Topcon's set goals for its MC-Mobile solution: the ability to quickly and efficiently measure, design and build. Drawing upon key technology from the surveying and machine control worlds — including tapping the strengths of a Layout Navigator (LN) robotic total station — MC-Mobile has proven its value in reducing staffing needs and largely eliminating costly wait times.

Being a small contractor, Eccard said he was particularly impressed that a solution like MC-Mobile was available to someone like him. While he still saw the robotic solution as a pretty significant investment, it was also something he couldn't deny himself. "Between the labor savings and the added efficiencies, I knew we would be seeing, the payback would definitely be there. So, it was the classic no-brainer."

He said the impact was immediate. "Using MC-Mobile, we've completely eliminated the need to have someone walking along with the machine continually checking grade. That person can now be installing pipe or putting in chambers or doing wiring. We're just so much more efficient now."





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According to Eccard, between new septic installs and system replacements, the company does between 75 and 100 projects per year, so the uptick in efficiency provided by the MC-Mobile solution is more than welcome. And, despite having it for just months now, they've already seen examples in which it has proven invaluable.

"We often have to dig tank holes in very questionable soil," he said. "We recently did a commercial project in such conditions and the bottom of tank hole was 15' deep. Just knowing that I didn't have to have a man down there to verify depth because I had it right in the cab of the machine, made all the difference."

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