

# Construction Logistics: Best Practices



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The construction industry has always been a stressful industry. It has become even more challenging in recent years driven by a pandemic and unstable economy. Factors like lack of building materials availability, a decreasing workforce, and exorbitant prices are affecting everyone's ability to complete a project on time and within budget.

The dramatic shift has moved improving efficiency to the top of executive's priority lists. Companies are looking for better ways, best practices, and tools that will enable them to excel in construction project logistics to offset changes. The following is a list of six best practices to guide you in doing a better job at construction logistics.

1. **Learn The Job Site Early** - well before project planning begins visit and learn the job site. Pay attention to the physical characteristics so you can identify potential barriers. Erosion or loose soil are some because they are not conducive to a delivery road and can cause dust issues. Also, consider the time of year as weather conditions, like snow can create problems you can avoid.
2. **Learn Jurisdictions & Constraints** – Avoid problems and delays by designating time and learning jurisdictions and constraints. Make sure you are clear on all the local rules and regulations in areas that include management of stormwater and

noise, dust, and vibration. Plus, any limits for equipment like overhead clearance for cranes that may be inhibited by power lines.

3. **Think About Traffic Ways** – Construction sites have a continuous flow of foot and vehicle traffic. If not thought through and planned before activity begins it can hinder progress. Determine the best places for entrances, exits, and pedestrian crossings that won't hinder workflow. Plus, paths and parking areas for workers.
4. **Identify Storage Areas** – Before the first load of building materials or piece of heavy equipment arrives Identify storage areas and share them with the team. Preplanning storage saves time because workers are not having to search around the jobsite for what they need.
5. **Predetermine Security Needs** – Start conversations right after contracts are signed about all your site's security needs. The theft of construction equipment and supplies is a serious possibility and reaches up to \$1 billion yearly. Losing equipment is an expensive lesson that affects profits. Think about security cameras, motion sensors, fences, gates, and tool storage. Plus, don't forget to create a process for securing everything in storage at the end of each day.
6. **Don't Forget Breaks** - The construction crew will need a place where they can take breaks. Find and prepare before the first person arrives a safe place with cover or shade, where workers can wash their hands, use a restroom, and take a break.

Thinking about factors and details thoroughly ahead of time, especially before work begins, reduces logistics complexities than can cause delays. Workers can operate more effectively and efficiently since they can easily find what they need and when they need it to complete tasks. Plus, following best practices creates a safer environment with better working conditions. The happier your crew, the more work your company will get done, enabling you to reach targets, reduce costs, and improve profits. It's a win-win for all involved.