



7 Secrets to Managing Roofing Projects Smartly

E B O O K



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Introduction

Savvy roofers understand how difficult it can be to plan a roofing project and make sure it stays on schedule. There are several challenges that roofers come across—be it unpredictable weather conditions, labor shortage, or lack of project visibility. And no matter how hard you strive to stay on schedule, you will end up making mistakes for obstacles that come along the way.

Every roofing contractor will agree that dealing with construction delays is generally unavoidable. Of course, you do what you can to stay on schedule, but there will inevitably be one thing or another — often, through no mistakes of your own — that can hamper the deadlines.

Everyone in the roofing industry knows that one of the most critical aspects of project management is mitigating costly delays. These delays tend to impact your project costs, driving higher expenditures than you had predicted for your project.

Moreover, roofing contractors know well that delays can drive you through a considerable reduction in ROI. It also gives your clients the impression that you're disorganized or incompetent in delivering what you have promised.

This thing will ultimately impact your reputation in the market. Also, you may face financial issues that occurred because of liquidated damages — a contractual fine that you may have to bear if a work delay results in financial losses for your client.

If you want to avoid delays in your roofing project, you need to find out the root cause of these delays. You can do so with proper estimations, enabling you to plan ahead smartly and ensure that contingencies are in place for the worst scenarios to happen. No doubt planning is integral, but responding to unpredictable situations can also assist you in keeping your project on track.



Top Challenges Faced by Roofers While Managing Their Projects

• Staff & team recruitment

In the present scenario, the roofing industry is encountering problems finding skilled labor. And one of the primary reasons for a labor shortage is the pandemic. It seems that all the skilled laborers have gone from the construction sites.

Another reason why roofers face challenges in hiring new employees is the lack of technology. Because the young generation is more attracted to innovations, they go to fields where they are exposed to digital and robotic technologies.

This is why the industry is constantly developing technologies for construction and trades works. Robots are being utilized by substantial roofing firms.

If you wish to hire freshers, be sure to give them complete training to reap positive experience at the site and prefer to stick with their job.

• **Stiff competition**

Apart from the shortage of labor in the roofing industry, there's an increase in the competition. And if you check online, every state has over a thousand roofers promoting their work.

To survive in this competitive environment and win roofing leads, you must look for effective ways to edge them. Using the latest technologies to streamline your processes can attract more clients. ProjectPro is one such tool that can make things easier to communicate and collaborate with your client base.

It is a well-structured construction accounting software powered by Microsoft Dynamics Business Central that helps to streamline processes and strengthen your control over projects.

• **Poor work-life balance**

Today, several construction projects, be it residential or commercial, need roofing services. The increasing demand for work and shortage of staff is amplifying the workload. However, you can reduce this stress to an extent by automating processes like reporting and updating project files through ProjectPro.

In this way, you can eliminate the need to travel for your workers to on-site locations. As a roofer, you can keep track of employees' assigned tasks. This allows them to save their energy and come back to work the next day full of enthusiasm. And with such a work-life balance you can expect great productivity at the site.

• **Poor weather conditions**

Weather is the top enemy of roofers because it's unpredictable. And sometimes, extreme weather conditions make things quite difficult for roofers to install roofs properly, leading to excessive rework or delays in the delivery of projects. This is why roofers need to learn the tactic and basics of the right timing for installation works. Otherwise, it can cause major accidents as well as substandard work.

Another example of how the weather makes the lives of roofers hard is inflicting damage to the roof. Hurricanes and grave storms can lead to complete demolition of roofs, hence putting roofers in a challenging situation.

- **Fail to make right choices**

If you fail to plan your roofing project in detail before the work begins, encounter unexpected costs along the way that will cause you to blow your budget. In a roofing project, changes done to the plan once it is already in progress are often possible — for instance, selecting a new material that isn't instantly available from the manufacturer — but you need to know that this can lead to more work, more delays and higher costs.

Therefore, to keep the project on track, stick to the budget and make sure that you have all permits and materials ahead of time.

- **Unfaithful subcontractors**

If you're looking for reliable subcontractors that don't waste time on the job or lack the tools, experience, training, and methodology, hire full-time and certified employees.

These subcontractors who work with established roofing companies know the processes and have knowledge in working with specific brands. They know what's important for them and are capable of producing great results on a regular basis. This results in improved productivity and quality standards for roofing business owners.

7 Effective Tips that will help Roofers to Achieve Success in their Project

Roofing contractors that work for residential and commercial buildings should prioritize proper planning, especially for roofing projects. This actually means ensuring that every fine detail about the complete roofing project is set on the schedule, including the time, resources, expenses, effort, and other major aspects that are essential to accomplish the project.

Roofers and their material preferences, tools, planning for the budget, team, and other resources usually play an integral role. Advanced software technologies like the construction accounting software have also proven to be effective and beneficial to the project's development and finalization.



1. Achieve success with the weather forecast

As mentioned before, the weather is the only factor that cannot be controlled. And unfortunately, it plays a vital role in all the roofing projects, impacting the scheduled project timeline straight away.

Usually, roofing contractors make adjustments for the start times and workdays that depend upon the weather conditions. And if you look at other factors that include extended forecasts and poor weather. However, you should never underestimate the weather as it is the main cause for project delays, dangerous work conditions, and also water damage within the structures’.

However, if you have a well-planned schedule and are open to flexibility, be it any type of weather conditions, they can be managed efficiently. And if you use smart software, managing the project will likely be more efficient. All features of this software application are seamlessly meeting both the project manager's and subcontractors’ needs.

2. Adopt a Project Management Software

Undoubtedly, software solutions are meant to provide useful business insights when it comes to project management and also project accounting. This type of platform has helped in emphasizing the project's budget and where it could lead in the future.

Besides this, it will also allow project managers the structure they require to strategically use the teams and make the most of the resources further. Therefore, roofers can easily obtain team productivity, achieve positive results, and turn any project a success.

The top construction management software, like ProjectPro, is one of the leading software applications. Below we've mentioned its built-in project management features.

- **Job Quoting and Proposals**

Now experience job quoting like never before with ProjectPro. It allows you to build assemblies of items, equipment, labor, and subcontract entries behind a bid item.

- **Job Purchasing and Procurement**

Let us help you get quick access to control inventory and purchase. It also allows users to purchase directly for jobs and enhance the overall job purchasing process.



- **Job Material Planning**

It adds convenience to managing material resources and seamlessly tracks actual materials and resources.

- **Subcontract Management**

Now quickly manage subcontracts from change orders to vendor and job reports with ProjectPro.

- **Project Management**

ProjectPro helps you keep your project aligned with resources and activities. This also ensures timely implementation and deliveries. Also, you can achieve revenue goals by easily tracking costs and billable activities.

- **Progress Billing**

Let us help you manage bills for hundreds of contracts or unit consumption as you progress on the project. Also you can create AIA compliant billings.

3. Demonstrate Post-Installation Walk-Through

Roofing contractors have to review the actual project scope in collaboration with other professionals and teams involved. A comprehensive walk-through towards the whole work is critical to inspect so that everyone is informed about all matters included in the roofing project.

As a roofing contractor, you need to review all items essential for the roofing project on the list. Preparation of this list is indeed one of many vital things to do at the beginning of the project because a thorough and detailed inspection of the listed items should be done on a daily basis.

All the mentioned items and resources can be stored and saved using the best project management software. The tool allows the users to secure files along with any crucial documents involved with the ongoing project. The last inspection or review is expected to be implemented after the roofing project is complete to an extent.

4. Ensure that you Stick to Building Codes

In reality, adhering to the set building codes is one of the crucial matters for roofers. These building codes rule the complete roofing process. It is inevitable to identify all local building codes and coordinate these needs alongside the standard guidelines for manufacturer installation.

It is also crucial to find out and acknowledge any errors between the manufacturer's suggestions and existing codes and immediately get them fixed before the project begins. It is the duty of the roofing contractor to take into account these issues and prioritize them.

5. Significance of Technology in Roofing

Presently, several builders are already using several technologies when working on a roofing project. This may include some mobile applications and smart aerial measurement tools.

An integrated project management software, for instance, is one of the best mobile applications used and deployed today at job sites for various purposes. And the fact is, numerous construction professionals and workers find this application advantageous as it makes the work seamless and efficient.

These aerial roof measurement tools are more focused on the technical aspect. It is utilized by roofing contractors to gather all technical data without any hassle.

More so, it even presents a mock-up that gives you an idea of what your project will look like. With the help of these aerial photos, creating reports from the collected details, and thorough renderings like land records and geographic databases, things become quite easy.

6. Prioritize Job Site Safety Above All

Out of all the listed guidelines for project projects and or any construction project, job site safety should be a priority. Roofing contractors must look into this matter, particularly on adhering to safety rules and regulations, and ensure that nobody attempts to cut corners in any of the safety procedures.

Federal Occupational Safety and Health Administration state or OSHA are some of the most common governing safety procedures and guidelines that all roofing contractors should follow to avoid severe injuries for their laborers.

Over the years, fatalities caused by unexpected falls from elevation have continued to be one of the leading accidents of death for roofers and construction workers as stated by OSHA.

Injuries and sudden death of workers are preventable only if contractors are following the best safety precautions. That is why it has become a mandatory policy to execute a safety policy for all worksites. Workers should be provided with safety tools and equipment while the project's execution from start to finish.



7. Secure important roofing permits ahead of the time

Generally, for roof replacement projects a part of planning should be focused on figuring out what permits are essential for the submission of applications. Roofing contractors should know that these permits aren't approved so seamlessly and early and are time-consuming.

Most of the time what happens is that the actual time and date for the inspections rely on the inspectors' availability. It might take a few days to a week before an inspector will assist you.

04 Conclusion

No doubt there are several causes of delays in construction projects, they can all be resolved by managing expectations with the client. Moreover having well-trained, experienced, and efficient working teams, ensuring transparent and open communication about how things are progressing is vital.

That said, ProjectPro is a one-stop solution for roofing contractors to simplify their processes and ease the work of laborers. It helps to boost productivity and ensure that your team works in tandem without any hassle.

About ProjectPro

ProjectPro is a division of Netsmartz LLC global group of companies. ProjectPro is specifically designed for construction firms and powered by Microsoft Dynamics 365 Business Central to make sure you get the most out of your business software.

Stand out of the league by streamlining your business processes, controlling costs, and offering timely and accurate information. ProjectPro holds the potential to integrate your crucial job quoting, project accounting, resource management for labor and equipment, and much more all in a single database.

With integrated data, intelligent transaction processing, and robust analytical and reporting capabilities, you can reduce the time and effort it takes to access meaningful information necessary to make good business decisions.

REQUEST A DEMO



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