

Jobsite Productivity Amid Social Distancing



Your company relies on productivity, but what happens when you have to go to a job site but also have to [socially distance yourself from your co-workers](#)? While construction is fundamental to a city's success, it's crucial for you, as essential businesses, to take the proper precautions to protect yourselves. For those of you working remotely, we have a guide specific to home offices here:

[Staying Productive While Working from Home](#)

DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

The guidance detailed in this eGuide is not a standard or regulation, and it creates no legal obligations. It contains recommendations from third-party sources that are advisory in nature, informational in content, and are intended to assist industry partners in providing a safe and healthful workplace. Please be sure to consult local authorities to ensure compliance with specific regional, statewide, and federal laws.

HOW TO KEEP JOBSITES CLEAN

The CDC has been urging everyone to clean as often as possible, and construction sites are no exception.

CLEAN AS YOU GO

Make sure you disinfect high-touch surfaces every few hours minimally with an [EPA-recommended disinfectant](#). High-touch surfaces include [door handles, countertops, as well as bathrooms](#) and portable bathroom facilities.

When you have access to soap and water, use it! [Wash your hands for 20 at least seconds in warm, soapy water](#), making sure you scrub between your fingers, under your nails, and around your wrists. Imagine you are scrubbing off caked-on dirt. When soap and water isn't available, use hand sanitizer with at least 60% alcohol content. For hand sanitizer, use about the same amount you would soap and rub your hands together like you were washing with water until your hands are dry.

PREVENT CROSS-CONTAMINATION

To minimize the risk of COVID-19, don't share tools between workers. Every day your team is on site, give them their own tools. Sanitize them at day's end to dry for the next day.

Rather than have a communal water cooler that's a high-touch surface, [have everyone bring their own water bottles](#). That extra precaution coupled with staying six feet apart and protective equipment (e.g., masks and gloves) should lower the risk of contamination for workers.

HOW CONTRACTORS CAN MAINTAIN A SIX-FOOT SOCIAL DISTANCE

The amount of people needed at a jobsite spans trades. With our own smart system roll-outs, [SBT is there for every step of the installation process](#), so we see first-hand with our own projects that jobsites can get crowded. To help workers maintain a social distance, bring in different workers at different times. Have construction working in the morning, plumbers come in after construction leaves, electricians work after plumbers leave, and so on, in a work order that makes sense for the specific jobsite.

Keep everyone six feet away from each other, and limit the amount of workers from each trade at jobsites. While it's not ideal having less workers, smaller jobsites necessitate it to maintain the appropriate distance.

In cases where workers have to be close to each other, be cautious. The Centers for Disease Control (CDC) tells us that [even people without symptoms can be carriers of COVID-19](#). Make sure all of your workers have access to masks to minimize risk of spreading coronavirus.

JOBSITE PRODUCTIVITY AMID SOCIAL DISTANCING

HOW TO STAY PRODUCTIVE AT JOBSITES

Having all the trades needed for a successful build coming in to work at separate times also could increase productivity. But it's important to keep the lines of communication open between each specialty.

FIND NEW WAYS TO COMMUNICATE

When SBT would work with contractors, the installation process would occasionally stall because the installation manuals would sometimes get lost. Contractors always have their phones on them, so we introduced new communication technologies that allow our contractor partners the ability to receive digital manuals wherever they are and on whatever device they use. Develop creative solutions to communicate manager to worker as well as worker to worker. So, whether it's digital manuals or other creative ways to keep workers in touch with one another, these steps will lead your workers to be more effective in the long run.

With office workers off site to prevent the spread of coronavirus, they may have time to brainstorm ways that everyone can stay in touch.

Each company has different strategies, but a communication plan could include assigned workers calling each other to check in every other day, weekly video calls with teams from home, group text messages, and more.



CONTINUE EDUCATION SIX FEET (OR MORE) AWAY

One of the most important aspects of any job is continuing education. On construction sites, managers have to stay six feet away, but while you can't get close to explain a project component, managers can record videos for their employees teaching them how to complete common tasks on-site.

For workers seeking out continuing education on their own, [Builder](#) and [Contractors](#) have resources. SBT also keeps track of individual state updates for contractors ([click here for more information.](#))

JOBSITE PRODUCTIVITY AMID SOCIAL DISTANCING

PREPARE FOR UPCOMING PROJECTS

Clients might be hesitant to start new projects right now, but take on a “delay, don’t cancel” mindset. Businesses will need to complete their plans in the future and they’ve already hired you. Show them you want to work with them and offer support, schedule virtual meetings to go over future plans, or offer a small discount if they decide to follow through on projects now or later (depending on when your company is busiest).

Communication is key as all of us navigate COVID-19. So while you may not have offered constant updates to building managers, send weekly updates to let them know what was done and how you kept workers safe. This can only benefit your company in the future—showing you can handle crisis communication. That lets your clients know you’re an even more trustworthy company.

KEEP CONTRACTORS SAFE

Construction workers are essential. If you start feeling sick at all, call your manager. For managers:



make sure to monitor your workers; let them know that if they feel sick, they should stay home. Consult with teledoctors before going to see a doctor in person if you have a cough, fever, shortness of breath, or [other common symptoms of the disease](#).

Workers out in the field can accomplish amazing feats during this time, like the [two temporary](#)

[hospitals built in Wuhan in record time](#). Keep workers and clients in the loop about jobsites—it’s a way to stay connected during this time.

When you’re ready to deploy smarter systems, SBT is ready to offer guidance for all industries: from [industrial](#) to [manufacturing](#) to anyone who can benefit from a [wireless controls system](#) that maximizes energy savings. [Contact us with your IoT questions](#); we’re here to help.