



COVID-19 JOBSITE SAFETY & PREVENTION BEST PRACTICES

Despite the various local shelter-in-place orders, the counties and cities of the Dallas-Fort Worth metroplex consider construction an essential service to our region’s infrastructure and continued well-being. We have enumerated the below jobsite safety and prevention best practices that all DFW contractors should strive to follow during this time.

Industry Overview:

- The Dallas-Fort Worth construction industry provides consistent employment annually for almost 150,000 construction workers across the North Texas region.
- The average wage for construction workers across all trades is approximately \$20.72/hour.
- Most construction employees work 45-50 hours/week.
- The annual payroll for construction labor in the DFW metroplex is a staggering \$7 billion.
- A vast majority of that \$7 billion construction payroll total goes directly back into the DFW economy.
- The hardworking construction workers in the DFW metroplex are collectively our best asset.

Occupation code	Occupation title (click on the occupation title to view its profile)	Level	Employment	Employment RSE	Employment per 1,000 jobs	Location quotient	Median hourly wage	Mean hourly wage	Annual mean wage	Mean wage RSE
47-0000	Construction and Extraction Occupations	major	149,540	2.0%	41.910	1.02	\$18.75	\$20.72	\$43,090	0.7%

Source: U.S. BLS, Occupational Employment Statistics, May 2018 Metropolitan and Nonmetropolitan Area Occupational Employment and Wage Estimates. Dallas-Fort Worth-Arlington, TX

Note: The photos utilized in this document were provided courtesy of TEXO Contractor Members on DFW area projects.

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A. Jobsite Safety

- Limit all person-to-person contact (i.e. shaking hands). Keep 6 feet of distance between yourself and others. Avoid prolonged contact longer than 3 minutes.
 - Avoid eating lunch or taking breaks in groups. Do NOT share drinking containers.
 - Do NOT use a common water cooler. Provide individual water bottles or instruct workers to bring their own.
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- Consistently evaluate and disinfect areas where your employees take breaks and eat their meals.
 - Avoid in-person meetings, if possible. In the case that an in-person meeting is unavoidable, conduct it in a well-ventilated area with sufficient space for attendees to distance themselves from one another. For meetings such as toolbox talks, consider breaking them up into smaller group meetings versus one large meeting.
 - Limit elevator usage when occupied with multiple people. Use stairs when possible.
 - No visitors should be at the jobsites, unless fundamental to the execution of the work.
 - To limit the number of people on a jobsite, allow non-essential personnel to work from home when possible.
 - Avoid stacking trades, if possible.
 - Communicate key CDC recommendations (and post signage where appropriate) to your staff and tradespeople:
 - i.e. [How to Protect Yourself, If You are Sick](#), and [COVID-19 Frequently Asked Questions](#).
 - Place posters that encourage [staying home when sick](#), [cough and sneeze etiquette](#), and [hand hygiene](#) at the entrance to your workplace and in other workplace areas where they are likely to be seen.



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B. Jobsite Sanitation

- Provide soap and water and alcohol-based hand rubs in the workplace. Ensure that adequate supplies are maintained. Place hand rubs in multiple locations or in conference rooms to encourage hand hygiene.
- Avoid sharing tools or any multi-user devices and accessories such as iPads, laptops, hand-held radios, computer stations, etc. if possible, or disinfecting as needed. (See Section B: “Tool Handling & Cleaning” below.)
- Limit the exchange/sharing of paper documents by encouraging use of electronic communication whenever possible.
- Do NOT share personal protective equipment (PPE).
- Sanitize reusable PPE per manufacturer’s recommendation prior to each use.
- Ensure used PPE is disposed of properly. Utilize disposable gloves where appropriate; instruct workers to wash hands after removing gloves.
- Identify specific locations and practices for daily trash such as: paper, hand towels, food containers, etc. Instruct workers responsible for trash removal in proper PPE/hand washing practices.
- Provide routine environmental cleaning (i.e. doorknobs, keyboards, counters, and other surfaces).
- Utilize shoe sanitation tubs (non-bleach sanitizer solution) prior to entering/leaving jobsite).
- Instruct workers to change work clothes prior to arriving home; and to wash clothes in hot water with laundry sanitizer.
- Utilize disposable hand towels and no-touch trash receptacles.
- Request additional/increased sanitation (disinfecting) of portable toilets.



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- Avoid cleaning techniques, such as using pressurized air or water sprays that may result in the generation of bioaerosols.
- Clean surfaces of service/fleet vehicles, steering wheel, gear shift, instrument panels, etc.: use aerosol sanitizers inside closed cabs.
- In regard to shuttling employees, ensure distancing and encourage workers to provide their own transportation where possible.

C. Tool Handling & Cleaning

- People handling tools should wash their hands or use a proper hand sanitizer before and after use to help prevent contamination.
- People handling tools should be properly trained and protected using necessary personal protective equipment (PPE).
- Clean tools with mild soap, a clean damp cloth, and, as needed, an approved diluted bleach solution only. Certain cleaning agents and solvents are harmful to plastics and other insulated parts and shouldn't be used.
- Do NOT use cleaners that have conductive or corrosive materials, especially those with ammonia. Some of these include gasoline, turpentine, lacquer thinner, paint thinner, chlorinated cleaning solvents, ammonia, and household detergents containing ammonia.
- Never use flammable or combustible solvents around tools.
- Follow these cleaning procedures:
 - Clean the product surface with mild soap and water to remove dirt and grease.
 - Dip a clean cloth into the dilute bleach solution. Wring out the cloth so it is not dripping wet.
 - Gently wipe each handle, grasping surfaces, or outer surfaces with the cloth, using care to ensure liquids do not flow into tool.
 - Allow the surface to dry naturally.
 - The cleaner should avoid touching their face with unwashed hands and should immediately wash their hands after this process.

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D. Managing Sick Employees

- Health and safety are the first priority. Comply with all CDC and OSHA recommendations, particularly social distancing.
- It is critical that you do NOT report to work while you are experiencing illness symptoms such as fever, cough, shortness of breath, sore throat, runny/stuffy nose, body aches, chills, or fatigue. If you develop these symptoms, seek medical attention.
 - Per the Centers of Disease Control (CDC), a fever is considered 100.4° F / 38.0° C.
 - Employees who have symptoms of acute respiratory illness are recommended to stay home and not return to work until they are free of fever, signs of a fever, and any other symptoms for at least 24 hours, without the use of fever-reducing or other symptom-altering medicines (e.g. cough suppressants).
- Communicate your company's Human Resources practices for managing sick time related to COVID-19.

E. General Prevention

- Wash your hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds. Use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer that contains at least 60% alcohol if soap and water are not available. Soap and water should be used preferentially if hands are visibly dirty.
- Avoid touching your eyes, nose, and mouth with unwashed hands.
- Avoid close contact with others, especially people who are displaying symptoms.
- Stay home when you are sick or begin to feel symptoms.
- Cover your cough or sneeze with a tissue, then throw the tissue in the trash. If you do not have a tissue, cough into the inside of your elbow, covering your mouth and nose.
- Clean and disinfect frequently touched objects and surfaces.
- Follow all CDC guidance and recommendations as communicated through www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov.

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