



-LEAN CONSTRUCTION-

BUILDING YOUR PATHWAY TO SUCCESS



BUILD A COMPETITIVE EDGE WITH LEAN CONSTRUCTION

The challenges faced today by electrical contractors can seem daunting. Maintaining and growing your foothold in the marketplace amid relentless competition requires constant attention to the project schedule, manpower planning, safety, quality and budget.

But worrying about your supply chain doesn't need to be on the list. Lean construction techniques can ensure you always have the right material at the right place, time and price.




REDUCE WASTE AND INCREASE PROFITS


Lean practices are rooted in the identification and removal of waste from a process. At a jobsite, these wastes can easily be overlooked, even when repeated several times per shift. Wastes can result from incorrect material shipments or material being located in an inefficient location somewhere across the site. Wastes such as excess motion and transportation can result from incorrect material shipments, or material being located in an inefficient location somewhere across the site. Onsite custom fabrication can also lead to defects and rework (over-processing).

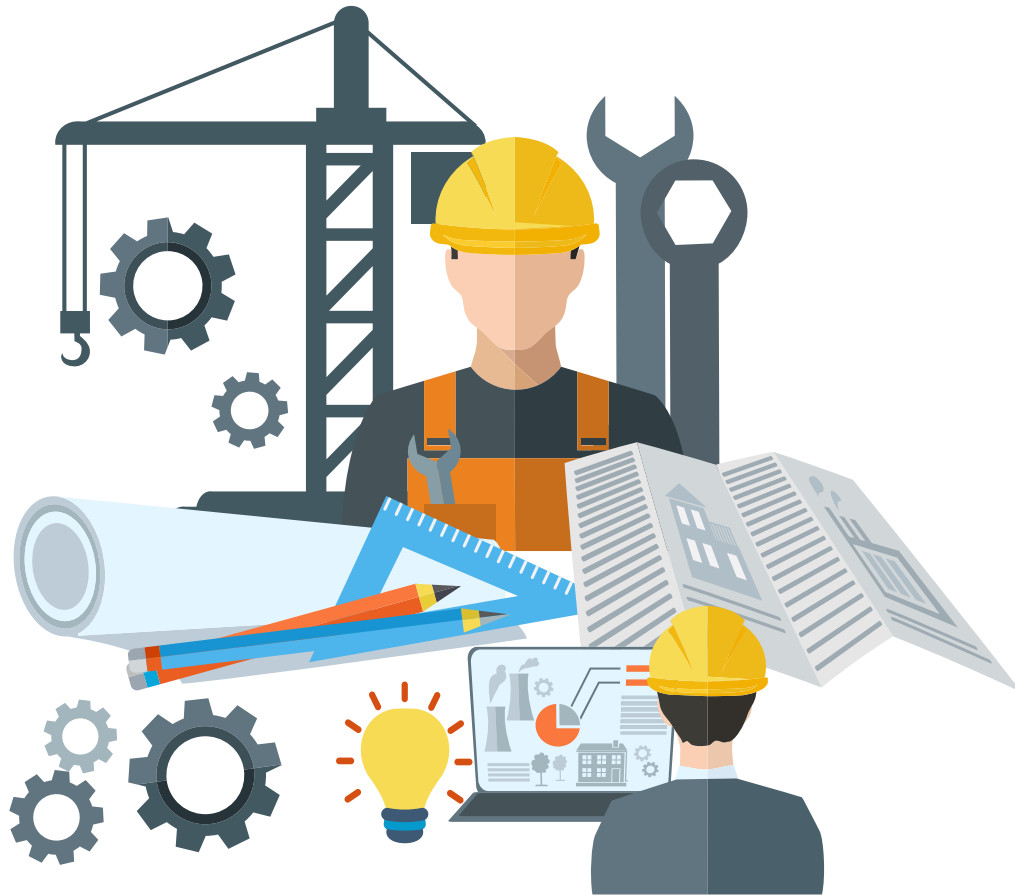
By actively managing a supply chain and bill of material with Lean practices in mind, a contractor can dramatically reduce the waste experienced across the jobsite, directly impacting the bottom line. In fact, more than 70 percent of contractors who implemented at least one Lean practice have reported savings and improved profitability.

By implementing Lean processes, contractors can expect:

 **Increased quality**
(84% surveyed)

 **Greater productivity**
(77% surveyed)

 **Improved safety**
(77% surveyed)



OVERCOMING THE (CULTURAL) CHALLENGES

Understanding the benefits is often not enough to convince a project manager or foreman to adopt and promote a Lean culture. Most Lean practitioners identify “lack of knowledge” among their peers and industry as a roadblock for smooth adoption. More than a third of them claim that the perception of increased complexity and added planning time are also to blame.

To overcome these roadblocks, it is possible to introduce and encourage cultural change. Many contractors have identified a few common themes, including engagement and collaboration among all associates, and the sharing of data and lessons learned. Prior to implementing any tactical Lean tool or technique, simply instituting or reinforcing these behaviors within your organization lays the foundation of a Lean culture. This concept extends outside of your organization as well. A wealth of knowledge and experience exists outside of the construction industry. This means there are many opportunities for collaboration and best-practice sharing with your peers.

These are but a few of the reasons to take advantage of the resources and capabilities that exist from your distribution and supply chain partners. In response to the growing trends toward Lean, many distributors have addressed cultural roadblocks within their own organizations while developing significant in-house Lean construction and jobsite service capabilities.



THE THREE BUILDING BLOCKS OF A LEAN SUPPLY CHAIN

You may be wondering how your organization can implement Lean. Some of the most common Lean practices readily accepted in the industry today directly involve your supply chain partners. From project planning and material staging to onsite material management, there are Lean “construction services” available from most large, progressive distributors.

Create a Lean supply chain starting with these three building blocks



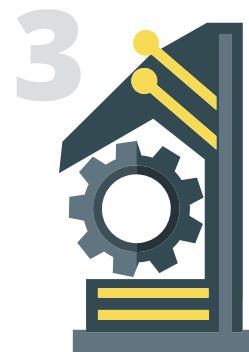
VALUE STREAM MAPPING:

To help “plan the work, and then work the plan,” an effective Lean tool for identifying waste before a project starts is value stream mapping. With the help of a Lean facilitator (moderator), each of the various role players from purchasing to project management to the site foreman maps out their responsibilities. Gaps or redundancies are identified and the process is corrected to ensure that waste isn't designed into the job.



PRE-FABRICATION:

Nearly 80 percent of surveyed contractors claim to have used some form of offsite pre-fabrication or assembly to reduce waste and costs from the job. Fifty percent claim to have been doing so for three years or more. While contractor fab shops do much of the work, distributors and their manufacturer partners also have those capabilities, often at a fraction of the cost.



JIT:

Jobsite material management today in many ways mirrors a manufacturing process. Real-time, daily management of material needs and direct delivery to the final point of use are methods that your distributor will use to keep inventory costs down (carrying cost, leakage, damage) and productivity high. Combined with pre-fab services, your crews will be more efficient and effective than ever.

Our Value Creation experts are ready to
help you achieve Lean construction success.

Contact them today at
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