

Top Tips

Eight Ways for Electrical Contractors to Reduce Labor and Increase Productivity

On construction projects, electrical contractors can face hurdles around every corner—from schedule changes to material delays to labor shortages. To improve productivity, electrical contractors can focus on the heart of their businesses, their workforce.

By following best practices, accurately estimating labor hours and investing in easy-to-install technologies and equipment, electrical contractors can maximize their profitability. Here are eight tips to save on labor and improve the productivity of your business.

1

Avoid labor overruns.

By not including enough labor hours in an estimate or considering certain project labor factors, a contractor can inadvertently put a squeeze on the bottom line. Labor overruns can be costly, but they are preventable. Contractors can improve the accuracy of their estimates by understanding NECA labor units and columns and identifying conditions like overtime, which negatively impact productivity.

2

Streamline project execution with BIM.

Inaccurate designs can impact the cost and schedule of a construction project. Contractors are leveraging technology such as building information modeling (BIM) to manage a project more efficiently from start to finish. Through a BIM tool—AutoDesk Revit—contractors can create a visual representation of pre-configured assemblies for proper placement and scheduling. In turn, electrical contractors can complete jobs faster and reduce overall job costs.

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3

Gather job site intelligence.

On any construction project, knowledge is power. To boost productivity on a job site, contractors must understand money, manpower and material, according to EC&M article, *"The Key to Gathering Job-Site Intelligence"* in the [How to Work Smarter, Not Harder eBook](#). Contractors can turn a routine visit into a gold mine of information by doing prep work, devising a game plan and using technology. By showing up to the job site with a checklist, contractors can expand their data gathering process and gain a competitive edge on a project.

4

Successfully manage job site schedule changes.

On any job, electrical contractors will experience changes. To successfully navigate these deviations from the schedule, contractors can establish a scheduling process, according to *"Managing Schedule Changes on a Job Site"* in the [EC&M eBook](#). To create the process, contractors should start with the general contractor's schedule and then break it down into measurable tasks. After creating the overall job site schedule, contractors should develop a three-week look-ahead as well as a daily task schedule. By proactively tracking impacts on the schedule, contractors can help to control job site variations and limit lost productivity.

5

Focus on safety to reduce worker downtime.

To finish a job on time and within budget, electrical contractors must emphasize efficiency and prioritize safety. ABB's product portfolio offers labor-saving products and technologies. The new [ReliaGear™](#) smart power distribution products utilizes smart design and smart technology to simplify every level of protection for your project.



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6

Invest in smart and reliable technology that is easy to install in the field.

Beyond labor-saving best practices, contractors can also save on labor hours by investing in easy-to-install equipment. Some of ABB's equipment in its [electrical distribution product portfolio](#) can be installed with a single tool or one installer. By offering simplified solutions, ABB is reducing the installed costs of its products.

7

Simplify the maintenance of equipment.

After the equipment has been installed, it's crucial to have equipment that is easy for electricians to maintain for maximum reliability and performance. Following the installation of ABB equipment, contractors and their clients can monitor and manage network systems—anytime, anywhere and on any device—to save energy and identify potential issues. Through ABB Ability, contractors can view a dashboard integrating energy and asset management.

8

Get local support for your products.

Nowadays, contractors demand products and technologies with shorter lead times and more support. ABB's expansive [distributor network](#) provides contractors with the help they need to successfully run their businesses. After contractors order products and track shipments online, they can turn to a [local sales group, service team and application engineers for assistance](#).

For electrical contractors, productivity is paramount and can lead to soaring profitability. As you look for ways to #ContractorBetter, ABB is with you every step of the way. **[Visit the Contractor Resource Center](#)** to read how-to articles and white papers, listen to past webinars, access online resources, and review codes, trends and standards. By partnering with ABB, you can learn how to navigate your path to productivity and build a brighter future for your business.