

9 Ways to Keep Your Project on Budget



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One of the biggest threats to any selective demolition project is going over budget. Throughout your project, you'll experience many opportunities for costs to exceed their projections. If you're not careful, these can add up to a final bill that's well over what you planned to pay.

Depending on your demolition partner, keeping your project on budget can take only a little effort while paying great dividends. If you value your bottom line, keep the following nine tips in mind before starting any selective demolition job.

1 Prioritize – and stick with what's important

These tips are all about keeping your project on budget, but sometimes, a low cost isn't actually what matters most. Consider your biggest goal: is it coming in under budget? Is it getting done as fast as possible? Is it something else entirely? Setting your priorities straight will help you be happier with the end result. And even if your biggest pain isn't cost, having the right priorities can save you money and aggravation by not having to redo things in the end.

2 Work out plans and schedules ahead of time

Talk with the demolition company about their production schedules early in the bidding process. That way, you'll be able to match your resources, manpower and equipment with what they have in mind. When you're sketching out your plan of attack, think about your biggest project pain: is it saving money, or saving time? The answer will help you arrange your resources in the way that most benefits you.

3 Coordinate all your resources with as much detail as possible

Many demolition projects require lots of moving parts – general contractors, demolition crews, allied trades, etc. If even one person is out of sync with the rest, it can spell blown timelines and blown budgets. When it comes to coordination and planning, there's no such thing as being too detailed or too redundant. Check that everyone is on the same page, and keep checking over and over throughout the project. A little repetition now will save you a big headache later.



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4 Get the flexibility to change the project without killing your budget

Complex demolition projects don't always go exactly as planned. Since small changes are common, there's no reason that you should have to make a whole new budget just to pay for them. A good contractor will always allow for some flexibility for changes to your project – be sure to ask for this during the bidding process.

5 The cheapest choice is not always the best choice

Staying on budget is a good thing, but not if it comes at the expense of completing the job properly. While some contractors may give you economical estimates to win your bid, they may not have the skills or expertise to finish your project the right way. In the end, you could end up paying for the right solution by paying for the wrong one first. Avoid this by carefully qualifying your contractors up-front, and remembering that if something sounds too good (in this case, too cheap) to be true, it probably is.

6 Work with a schedule-sensitive demolition contractor

There's one surefire way to exceed your project budget in a hurry: having work that drags on past the date that it should have been completed. Be sure that your contractor has lots of experience in handling schedule-driven projects, and getting a lot done in a short period of time. Ask your demolition partner about what they'll do to make sure your project is completed by your deadline. Otherwise, you risk upsetting the client with cost overruns for keeping trades and equipment on site longer than planned.



7 Rent heavy equipment sparingly and strategically

If your project calls for one or more pieces of heavy equipment, such as a crane, plan carefully. Equipment like this can cost tens of thousands of dollars each day, so you'll want to make the most of your investment. Arrange your schedule to get maximum production from the equipment in as little time as possible. This will ensure that you won't have to pay to keep it longer than necessary.

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8 Maintain open communication at all times

They say that communication is the key to any good relationship, and that holds true with the relationship you have with your contractor. If you're not frequently talking to your contractor about your project – and vice-versa – you're much more likely to end up getting an unpleasant surprise about the job at the last minute (see the next tip). Good contractors will update you daily, or more frequently as needed.

9 Take care of small issues before they become big problems

This is one big symptom of poor communication between a contractor and a client: big, budget-busting problems that could have been nipped in the bud weeks or months before. In selective demolition projects, complications can and do arise from time to time. The key to a successful project isn't avoiding issues – it's having a vendor who understands how to address them when they happen.

It's possible that some of the vendors you're talking to won't meet the criteria for these tips. Not every contractor will be able to meet your needs. Recognize those that won't ahead of time, and you'll position yourself to stay right on budget.

Get fast, reliable help with your tricky demolition project while staying within your budget. Visit cuttingtechnologies.com or call **856-456-2255**.



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