

## 5 Ways to Save Money on a Building Project

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Pocket protectors. Thick glasses. More math skills than social skills. It's the typical stereotype of the engineer but, thankfully, it does not describe most engineers. Being in the business of providing solutions, we just want to work as efficiently and effectively as possible. Working efficiently means doing the right things and working effectively means doing things right.

Here's a fact, like it or not, if you are doing any type of commercial or industrial construction, you are required to have your plans reviewed and stamped by a Registered Professional Engineer before they can be sent to your state's governing body for approval.

The people at the government agency want to know that someone with expertise in building design has figured out how big the roof trusses have to be to support the roofing material, or how strong the foundation should be to support the structure and whatever is inside it. Is your building going to have a glass exterior, lots of big windows or a brick facade? You have to make sure that they can withstand everything Mother Nature can throw at them. That's just the usual stuff; if your building has an out-of-the-ordinary feature, you want to be sure it will still be standing, and functioning, many years from now.

Those are the things that must be done, the "doing the right things" part of a construction project. Here are some ways that you can "do things right" and save time, money, and headaches by using the structural engineer's expertise to your advantage:

- 1) Include the structural engineer in the planning phase of your project. We know a lot about what is viable and cost-effective. This is one simple thing that saves lots of time and money.
- 2) When your engineer or architect sends you a set of plans to look over, do it right away. That way, if you've changed your mind about something, everyone has time to incorporate the changes and still keep your project on schedule.
- 3) Some changes are inevitable and some result from lack of planning. Do your homework, make sound decisions and stick with them. Your engineer will even help you.

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- 4) Include the engineer in progress meetings. They need to know what's going on to give you the most up-to-date documents.
- 5) Have the engineer do a few site visits while your project is being constructed. They can make sure that it's being constructed right; saving you costly fixes and re-works. This is another simple thing can keep a project within budget.

Engineers are a nerdy breed. We become engineers because there's something of the perfectionist in us. We love details and we love to have them right. We love to solve problems. That's exactly why you hire us, isn't it? You expect those details to be right. You expect solutions and we expect to provide them.

We want to help, we want your project to be successful, and with a small amount of effort on your part, we can save you time and money and prevent many of the headaches involved in construction. Team work is a marvelous thing.