

# **House Construction Guide**

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## **Overview & Safety**

Generally, this manual has been prepared as an aid to the House and Project Leaders of the Habitat for Humanity MidOhio. *It does not deal with any of the work being done prior to the beginning of construction by volunteers*. It also does not detail work which is done by the contractors. Each phase is laid out in a similar fashion beginning with what your site should look like at the start of the phase; what materials you should have on your site; what tools you will need to complete the tasks in that specific phase; a list of the tasks; and an explanation of each task. This manual does not make any assumptions concerning how many volunteers you have or their skill level. It does assume you have some prior experience with Habitat for Humanity's building methods.

Focus on quality and doing things right!

Photo problems and submit!

### Resources

This manual is not intended to be used alone. You will also need your plans, prints, detail sheets, Safety Manual, Safety Huddle Booklet, sign-up sheets and waivers.

### Safety

As always, you should be stressing safety first and quality construction while being respectful of your volunteers and neighbors.

### **Safety Audits**

Before starting work, perform a site audit (site docs); noting safety issues on the audit report.

### **Safety Huddles**

Start each day with a safety huddle to explain the tasks for the day and safety processes to be used. The Safety Huddle Booklet provides a guide for each session. Include in the safety huddle issues identified by the safety Audit.

Stress:

- the requirement for safety glasses and hard hats (during certain phases)
- the need for hydration, gloves and sunscreen
- The need for the buddy system
- Awareness of activities around you and your surroundings

Stress safety throughout the day.

### Site Safety

- Continue observing work throughout the day; coaching on safe working techniques.
- Stop unsafe practices immediately.
- If safety equipment not available, STOP WORK until it is.

### Tools

Each phase will detail the tools needed. The numbers will vary depending on the number of crews and concurrent tasks. If volunteers wish to bring their own tools, they should be told to bring only the tools listed in the "general tools" and should have them well labeled. The House Leader should make sure that every volunteer has access to the tools listed in the "Site Tool" section. The House Leaders are also responsible to ensure the remaining tools are on-site for use. These tools are available to be checked out at the Habitat JobBox (email plan@habitatmidohio.org. The only pneumatic tools permitted on a Habitat site are pneumatic finish nailers, pneumatic staplers and palm nailer. Habitat will supply all tools needed. Any tools supplied by the volunteers must be in good working order. Volunteers who are not proficient in the use of a tool should be instructed in its use before they begin work.

### Storage

A Mini Mobile storage unit maybe supplied or a lockable tool box will be placed in the basement.

### Lockable Tool Box

A large lockable tool box will be provided. At the end of the day, the power tools should be stored in the tool box.

### **Temporary Lighting**

Work lights will be suspended from the ceiling joists and held in place with zip ties. An extension cord will be run from the temporary power pole into the house to power the lights.

### **Temporary Power Pole**

Until the electrical service is installed in the house, power for the tools and lights will be provided on a power pole. This pole will be installed in the yard at a location defined by the Habitat Supervisor.

- 1. Either an electrical contractor or volunteers will install the temporary power pole and grounding rod.
- 2. The electrical contractor will finish the electrical installation and prepare the pole for inspection.

3. After the city approves the temporary electrical pole, AEP will connect up the power.

### **Green Building**

All Habitat homes will be built to the AWARE standards, published by Franklin County. These standards will make the homes more "green" and meet accessibility standards.