

CONSTRUCTION SITE SECURITY CHECKLIST

A practical guide to reducing theft, protecting assets, and keeping your jobsite safe.

Construction sites are high-value targets for theft, vandalism, trespassing, and equipment damage. With constant movement of crews, materials, and subcontractors, even a brief lapse in security can cost thousands — or delay an entire project.

This checklist outlines the essential steps every project manager, superintendent, and contractor can take to strengthen site security and reduce preventable loss.

1: Perimeter Security

- Fencing fully installed and secured
Check for gaps, weak points, and areas that can be bypassed.
- Gates locked during off-hours
Ensure each gate has heavy-duty locks that can't be easily cut or bypassed.
- Warning and "No Trespassing" signage posted
Visible signage helps deter entry and supports law enforcement if incidents occur.
- Lighting installed at access points
Bright lighting reduces blind spots and makes unauthorized entry more difficult.

2. Access Control

- Limit entry points to one controlled access gate
Fewer access points = easier oversight.
- Sign-in/sign-out process for all workers and subcontractors
Track who is onsite at all times.
- Require visible badges or identifiers
Helps differentiate workers from unauthorized visitors.
- Deliveries scheduled in advance
Reduces unexpected vehicles entering the site.

3. Asset & Equipment Protection

- Lock up tools, equipment, and high-value materials
Use containers, storage boxes, or lockable enclosures.
- Secure fuel tanks and generators
These are high-theft targets on most job sites.
- Implement daily inventory checks
Document equipment movement and material usage.
- Mark or engrave equipment
Makes stolen items harder to resell and easier to recover.

4. Surveillance & Monitoring

- Install temporary cameras or monitored video systems
Cameras act as strong deterrents and support incident resolution.
- Ensure cameras cover key areas
Material storage, gates, fencing, access points, and perimeter edges.
- Place signage indicating video monitoring
Boosts deterrence even when cameras are not visible.

5. On-Site Security Presence

- Schedule overnight or weekend security guards
Trained officers deter theft during the most vulnerable hours.
- Use mobile patrols for large or multi-site projects
Ideal for divided, sprawling, or remote sites.
- Ensure guards follow site-specific post orders
Custom instructions reduce blind spots and improve protection.
- Require detailed incident and patrol reports
Documentation supports insurance, accountability, and continuous improvement.

6. Fire Watch & Safety Measures

- Fire watch officers assigned when systems are offline
Comply with local fire code and maintain safety.
- Hot work monitored with appropriate precautions
Include time tracking and cool-down procedures.
- Fire extinguishers accessible and inspected
Verify location, condition, and readiness.

7. Daily Site Shutdown Procedure

- Verify all materials and equipment are secured
Double-check high-value items.
- Confirm all personnel have left the site
No unauthorized workers should remain after hours.
- Lock all gates and check fencing integrity
Walk the full perimeter when possible.
- Document end-of-day status
Use a checklist or digital logs.

8. Incident Response Plan

- Emergency contact list posted
Include PM, superintendent, security supervisor, and 911 protocols.
- Clear reporting process for workers
Make it easy to report suspicious activity.
- Security team aware of escalation steps
Ensure officers know when to notify leadership or law enforcement.
- Post-incident review process in place
Learn from every event to strengthen future prevention.

9. Additional Best Practices

- Stagger deliveries to reduce onsite material volume
Less surplus = fewer targets.
- Schedule high-value installations strategically
Minimize overnight exposure.
- Use GPS tracking for heavy machinery
Especially for loaders, generators, and skid steers.
- Maintain strong relationships with local law enforcement
Nearby patrols can increase visibility and deterrence.

Ready for Reliable, Responsive Security?

Citadel combines proven experience with flexible coverage to keep projects secure — from the first delivery to the final walk-through. Let's talk about construction security that protects your investment every step of the way.