



# Mastering takeoff for better construction estimating



**A complete guide to takeoff for fast,  
accurate pre-project planning**

# What is construction takeoff?

Construction takeoff is an estimating process that takes place at the start of a job to calculate the material needs and costs. Takeoffs can be done manually by measuring from the job site or digitally by uploading blueprint files to a software.

## Manual construction takeoff

Manual construction takeoffs are completed by hand using physical blueprints. Each measurement is taken and recorded from the blueprint or at the actual job site to create material lists and cost estimates. Manual takeoffs

must be done with the highest level of precision to ensure the measurements are accurate and the correct number of materials are ordered. Over or under ordering materials add extra cost and potential delays.

Manual takeoffs can also require complex equations, so person performing the takeoff must be familiar with calculating the area and volume of a space. It's then an extra step to figure out the

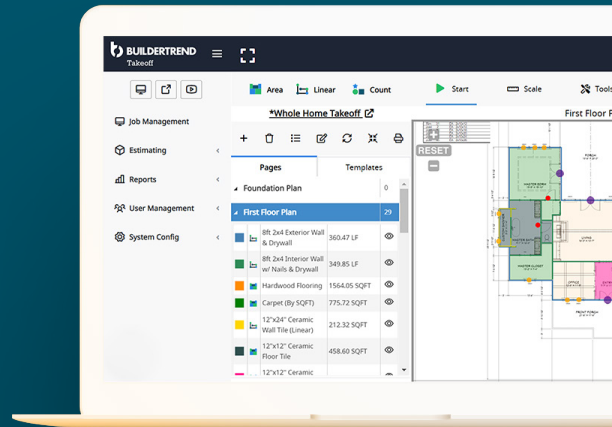
## Digital construction takeoff

Digital takeoffs involve the same process as a manual takeoff with the exception being that the more complicated processes are automated. There are several benefits to performing a digital construction takeoff, which include increased accuracy, saved time and a lower need for expertise. Using digital solutions for takeoff adds efficiency to all your processes by getting jobs started on the right track from the very beginning.



# What are the key benefits of using construction takeoff software?

Takeoff software helps construction companies perform project takeoffs with more [efficiency and accuracy](#). With these benefits, builders can quickly measure from digital blueprints while creating material lists and estimates at the same time. Here are three key benefits of using takeoff software:



1

## Less time spent on manual measuring

Measuring a room manually takes a whole lot of time — time that you could spend on other tasks. Using takeoff software for project planning and estimating is **33% faster than manual measuring**, according to Buildertrend's internal data.

With that valuable time added back to your day, you can spend it planning your business' future, focusing on your people or finally taking that vacation.

2

## Money saved on blueprints and materials

Construction takeoff software will add valuable time back to your day, and it can also save you money. Have you ever noticed how much you're really spending on printing those large-scale blueprints? Are you ordering more building materials than you need?

Using digital blueprints for all your jobs could save you hundreds if not thousands. Plus, with precise digital measuring, you can feel confident in your material estimates — and that you're only purchasing the product you need.

3

## Increased accuracy and efficiency

Takeoff information can now be easily communicated to everyone on your team. Material measurements and costs are automatically updated within the takeoff software — keeping everyone on the same page.

With automatic updates and everything saved in one platform, teams have a single source of truth to work from. This means fewer change orders and less rework — leading to a more efficient job site.

# So, why is takeoff software important for builders?

Planning construction jobs comes with many moving parts and pieces. The manual process of measuring for construction materials is tedious and time consuming. Plus, with the added element of human error, manual measurements aren't always as precise as they need to be. There's a better way. [Using takeoff software](#) allows builders to calculate material quantities accurately.

Takeoff software is a computer-generated estimating solution that allows construction professionals to more efficiently calculate material needs and costs. Projects can be started quickly by simply uploading digital blueprints and completing measurements with online tools.





# Get to know Buildertrend Takeoff

[Buildertrend Takeoff](#) is the best fit for any builder, especially if they're currently using multiple systems for takeoff and project management to run their jobs. Buildertrend's extensive list of coordinating features reduce the amount of time it takes builders to start projects and helps minimize errors and rework.

You can plan and manage jobs in this one cohesive platform. Upload digital blueprints, record measurements and create accurate estimates faster than ever. With our combined takeoff and [estimating solutions](#), you'll have everything you need to start each project with confidence.

You can trust Buildertrend to keep your jobs running smoothly from start to finish. Our construction management software helps with every step of the build — from the initial sales process and project planning to financial tracking and client communication.

## Buildertrend's takeoff software includes the following essentials:

### Blueprint uploading

Upload your blueprints directly into Buildertrend. You can either upload them to your Buildertrend files, or you'll have the option to add blueprints when launching a takeoff. The blueprints will then be used during the takeoff process for measuring and creating material lists.

### Material list building

With the online takeoff tool, you can create and use customizable templates to estimate the project's material and labor costs. This means you'll have a complete material estimate for each phase of construction, from initial foundation all the way to roofing.

### Cost code syncing

You can seamlessly create your takeoff and have your material lists automatically upload into your Buildertrend estimate. All you have to do is link your takeoff parts and assemblies to your cost codes. You can also choose to select individual parts and link to your specific cost codes within your template or the takeoff itself.

### Digital measuring

Our online takeoff tool allows you to measure the total area of your projects. You'll calculate linear dimensions and the counts for each item, which assists in the creation of your project estimate.

# A step-by-step guide to creating a takeoff in Buildertrend



Once you have access to Buildertrend Takeoff, you can start uploading blueprints, making accurate measurements and estimating more efficiently. Getting started is easy. Here's a quick step-by-step guide.

## 1

You'll start by accessing Buildertrend Takeoff under the gear icon and Setup menu in your Buildertrend account. Setup is where you'll create or link your existing takeoff account and manage user access.

## 2

After your account is created, you'll select Launch Takeoff in the Estimate feature. This will bring up the file uploader where you can upload your digital blueprints. You also have the choice to skip this step and go directly to Buildertrend Takeoff to upload your blueprints. You can upload a PDF or image file from your computer.

## 3

Once your blueprints are uploaded, it's time to start measuring. Set your scale using the page scale or manually set it using a known dimension. You'll use the built-in estimating tool to create your measurements. While measuring, your cost items will automatically sync to your Buildertrend estimate in real time.

## 4

When your takeoff is complete, you're ready to go. You can then follow the normal estimating process within Buildertrend.

# Kick off projects efficiently with Buildertrend's takeoff software

There are many different types of takeoff software. Buildertrend Takeoff is superior to the rest because it's a comprehensive platform that supports construction companies in every phase of their projects. It's integrated with our robust estimates feature, which means you don't need separate software. You can perform takeoff and manage

finances, scheduling and communication together. From kickoff to final inspections — everything can be managed in one place.

[Schedule a demo](#) and start completing accurate material estimates with Buildertrend Takeoff today!

“

*Based on what I'm seeing, Buildertrend Takeoff is going to help our processes tremendously.”*

**Solomon Lee,  
Paces Ferry Builders**

