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Advice from an avid user: Give it another go

Using the ShakeoutPro® app on the jobsite can be a game changer

Whether you've never tried ABC's jobsite staging app, ShakeoutPro, or you tried it when it first came out and haven't given it another go — now is the time to use this time, money, and effort saving piece of technology.

When it comes to complex projects, we know builders need to maximize efficiency during the layout and building process. ShakeoutPro gives those working on the jobsite a 3D model to illustrate the parts of a building and where they belong on the site. By scanning the barcode on any part, bundle or crate, the app will digitally identify the appropriate parts and highlight them within the 3D model right on the screen of your tablet or phone.

"We use the app on complex projects, and I encourage people to use it," said Kaul.

Buddy Kaul, of National Distributors and PAT/BAC Advisory Team member, started using the app when it first came out in 2017 and has figured out how the app works best for his organization.

*Suggestions for
the jobsite*



ShakeoutPro®

Unloading: The shakeout process can begin as early as when you're pulling the parts off the truck, scanning and placing the parts on the jobsite as you pull off truck. However, for Kaul and his crew efficiency is achieved by unloading and then starting the scanning process. "We have found that using the app after the truck has been unloaded to determine where the pieces go and that all the pieces are here is best," said Kaul. "We found early on that unloading the truck and using the app at the same time was not as efficient. However, once the pieces were off the truck and on the ground, it became extremely useful."

Smartphone or Tablet: The app is available for Apple and Android devices and can be used on a smartphone or tablet. National Distributors uses the app primarily on smartphones, due to the ease of carrying a smaller device. "The tablet is large and we had some safety concerns carrying the tablets, on and off of trucks and forklifts," said Kaul. Having phones out and in the hands of folks on the jobsite has led to some education for jobsites that do not allow phones. "We have to educate some people on why we are using a phone. We explain we are looking at drawings and connections. More and more people are using phones and tablets, rather than drawings on paper. This education is going on throughout the industry."

Efficiency & Safety: When you consider how erection drawings for complex building could be 30-40 pages with 10 pages of details, for example, going through all those pages to find the details you're looking for is time consuming. "Using the app, you can do it very quickly and zero in on the detail right in front of you," explained Kaul.

Kaul explains another example of the app assisting in efficiency and safety on the jobsite, "From a conventional standpoint, the crane operator is relying on the guy on the ground, but now all the guys can pull up their phone and check the details. The crew is all working on the same thing and they don't have to refer to the paper sitting somewhere. Everyone can look on their phone and know what's going on — that's efficiency."

Learning the technology: Young and old, experienced and non-experienced users are finding ShakeoutPro to be a useful and worthwhile app to learn. According to Kaul, the generation less familiar with technology finds there is a learning curve. "For the older guys, we're so accustomed to looking at black and white drawings, so the transition can be clumsy," Kaul explained. "However, for the younger generation looking at a phone is second nature, a drawing on paper is clumsy to them."

Kaul finds that the tool is improving from when it was first released. "As time goes on, I see more capabilities, then it will be an essential tool and will continue to move Nucor in the upper echelon of technology," said Kaul. "I appreciate Nucor's progressiveness in technology — others' inability to adapt will leave them in the dust when it comes to technology."

For those who have tried the app in the past, but are not using it now on complex projects, Kaul encourages trying it again. "It just keeps getting better, you need to try it and see how much better it is. You'll see the future and how its changing and getting better," encouraged Kaul.

"If you don't know how to use ShakeoutPro — find someone in your organization that can understand how it can be used and how it can make money for you," said Kaul.