THE SUCCESSFUL WOODWORKER'S

12-Point Checklist To Eliminate Frustration Waste And Failure

By: Crispin Thomas

INTRODUCTION

Do you have any idea why most woodworking projects end in failure?

Hammer, nails, and power tools may seem relatively easy to handle, but once you get started you will quickly realize that "***there is much more to woodworking than just tools***".

In many cases, wood work projects amount to wastage, frustration and failure because of one or more of the following:

- Failure to select the right materials and tools.
- Failure to use proper techniques.
- Not paying attention to safety procedures.
- Not taking enough time to plan properly and in sufficient detail.

All these situations contribute to frustration, project failures and wastage of costly materials, and can even lead to serious injury.

So I have produced a 12-point checklist that will ensure that you avoid the mistakes that others, including myself have made in the past, and enjoy your woodworking as you deserve to.

Please read all the way to the end as I have something very special for you.

But first, Why Should You Listen to Me?

Hey – I am Crispin Thomas. Nice to meet you!

For most of my life I have been fascinated with woodworking and the process of turning rough lumber into beautiful and functional furniture and articles.

You could even say I am addicted to sawdust!!

Even though I am an Engineer by profession, I share the same passion that you do, and have done many wood projects over the years.

Actually my experience with Project Management has actually helped me to build better structurally sound woodworking projects over the years.

I have also learned that there is really no substitute for good planning and organizing, especially with a woodworking project, and it is super important to ensure before starting that have a clear idea of what the end goal is, and the specific steps needed to get there.

That is why I have created this checklist, so that you do not have to make the costly and potentially dangerous mistakes that I have over the years.

You will find that this checklist will ultimately save you time money and frustration, and drastically increase your success and joy in your accomplishments.

So here goes….

Set Up a Proper Workshop Environment

The workshop is a woodworker's castle, and this is where all woodwork activities take place. This is the first and most important step, as it will set the environment for everything else.

Look around you and locate a cool spot to situate your workbench where you do all the rough work. In simple terms, your workshop could be a vacant room, garage or basement right there in your house.

The secret is you need a workshop all to yourself where you can explore and develop yourself. Think about these tips while setting up a workspace.

- Your workshop needs to be 8-10 feet high from the ceiling and spacious enough to accommodate various sizes of work tools and materials.
- Ensure that there are enough ventilation outlets for getting rid of dust and paint spray fumes.
- You will need sufficient electrical outlets to allow you to safely power electric tools and also adequate lighting system for illumination during your project.
- Keep a cabinet and a pegboard in place for organizing small hand tools and other items for easy access.

Acquire the Right Tools for Each Task

In the world of woodworking, we have numerous machines and tools serving various purposes. But it is your duty to identify and acquire the right tools for the task.

However, getting the right tools depend largely on the nature and magnitude of the job in view. So in a bid to

avoid workshop errors and project failures, clever woodworkers often come up with tools list in order of priority. With first priorities on basic hand tools and power tools for cutting and dressing lumber. Other tools and equipment will vary with respect to the project you are working on.

So for example if you will be working on wood turning, then you will get a different set of equipment than if you are planning on doing cabinetry.

Start with a Proper Plan

Before starting any project, you should think it through, in detail. Thinking a project through simply means taking enough time to anticipate problems, solve assembly solutions and ascertain the exact size and location of elements of your project.

You need to do this well beforehand, because once you start you project there may not be the opportunity to reverse any major mistakes. So before the project, you need to:

- Make a rough sketch of your finished project from different views.
- Work out the dimensions of each element of lumber, with respect to length, width, thickness and unusual cut angles.
- Make important notes on estimated cost of materials.

Get a Complete List of Your Materials

It is important that you understand the cost of raw materials needed for particular woodworking project. Think not only of wood but also, other accessories that make your final result functional. So your material list should include:

- The specific size and type of wood required.
- Amounts of fasteners to be used for every joints of the project.
- Hardware (handles, shelf supports, shelf pegs etc.)
- The exact color, quantity and type of finish required

Only Order What You Need

It is very easy to waste is due to over-ordering material.

Although it seems comforting to have abundances in place, but ordering only what the job requires saves money.

So when purchasing materials, you need to be “penny wise” and prudent. Unless you are running a commercial operation, stick to buying only what you require for completing your current project.

Train Yourself to Use Your Tools and Equipment Properly

“The triumph of a woodworker’s career rests on the shoulders of his skills”.

This is why you need to undergo appropriate training to enable you to acquire the necessary skills.

Some successful woodworkers can’t thank the internet enough. Today, we have countless online platforms where in-depth trainings and skills on woodworking can be learned. There are eBooks, YouTube videos and countless websites basically guiding beginners on “how to…” do anything you can think about.

So take some time in advance and look at how others work and use their tools safely before you begin yourself.

Practice Working Safely

How skillful you are with handling all your tools will go a long way in determining the success of your woodworking projects. Not only that!

The level of care and safety you practice while handling woodworking tools and machines also count a lot.

Accidents are very prevalent in the woodworking industry, not only because of the machines involved, but because **adequate precautionary measures are often not taken by many woodworkers or safety features are ignored or bypassed.**

In as much as you will be needing your full body of parts for a lifelong career in woodworking, please obey all safety rules.

These are there to protect you and your loved ones, and ensure you can continue to enjoy this wonderful pastime.

Reuse and Recycle Waste Materials

There are potential profits in recycling waste material, but only of this is done properly and systematically.

There are instances where woodworkers find useful waste materials that can still be recycled for constructing new projects.

Or profits can be realized from selling wood wastes as fuels for factories, for animal bedding and compost manure.

So do not hesitate to create a separate area for storing workshop wastes once this is possible.

Don’t be a Hero, Get a Helping Hand

Even though most woodworkers thoroughly enjoy all aspect of any woodworking project, there are times when fatigue and other factors can rob you of your joy.

If you find yourself in a frustrated situation where you single handedly perform all sorts of woodworking tasks ranging from lifting heavy lumber to cutting and sanding, getting a partner is a cool idea.

A workshop assistant or companion will significantly reduce stress and frustration to make woodwork projects a more rewarding and satisfying experience.

Manage Your Time

“The key is not spending time, but investing it” - Stephen Covey.

Time spent in the workshop should be focused on quick completion of quality projects, while the time left may be invested in other profitable projects or relaxing and spending quality time with family.

If you’re aspiring to be successful in the lumber industry, you need to work on time limits within which you meet and exceed demands of clients.

The ability to craft a quality woodwork within a short time frame classes you apart and gives you an edge over other woodworkers.

Eat Sleep and Relax

Are you aware that woodworking can be likened to full body workout?

This is the main reason behind the big muscular arms of carpenters. After years of hammering nails into stubborn hard woods, lifting heavy lumbers coupled with handling heavy duty machines, the body physique automatically responds to all these activities.

That is why you need proper nutrition, sound sleep and adequate relaxation before and after a hectic day at the workshop.

In addition, a woodworker needs a clear head in order to make technical drawings and other decisions.

So don't neglect your body, you will need it to remain healthy and strong throughout your woodworking lifetime.

Keep Tools and Materials Secured

Some woodwork materials and tools can get damaged easily.

So if adequate storage measure is not applied, most of your workshop equipment can malfunction because of not being stored properly.

This why you need to keep materials and tools in appropriate places away from damp, theft and vandalism.

Keep the workshop locked and secured whenever you are not around. This will so protect children and family members who may wander into your workspace.

Follow and Tried and Tested System

As you realize by now, it is very easy for your woodworking enthusiasm to cause you to get ahead of yourself, and either ignore or completely miss certain steps and ruin your woodworking project.

That is why over the years, I have developed and perfected a system that systematically guides you through any of your projects, so you get the type of consistent results you deserve.

I am sure this will do the same for you…

CLICK HERE NOW TO LEARN MORE

Best Regards…

Crispin Thomas
(Sawdust Addict)