

Introduction to Building Materials

This Self-Assessment will help you/us decide if this course is necessary for you to learn about Building Materials and Industry Terminology prior to taking an assessment for Basic/Beginner Blueprint Reading and the Estimating of Building Materials.

Pick an answer that best describes your ability and enter it on the My Score line.

1. How much work experience do you have in this industry?

- | | |
|---|----------|
| I have less than a year of work experience | 1 Point |
| I have more than one year | 2 Points |
| I have more than two years' of experience | 3 Points |
| I have more than three years' of experience | 4 Points |
| I have more than four years' of work experience in the industry | 5 Points |

My Score: _____

2. How much knowledge do you have in building material terminology?

- | | |
|---|----------|
| I do not know very many terms | 1 Point |
| I am familiar with at least 50% of industry terms which I encounter | 3 Points |
| I am confident in my knowledge of building material terms | 5 Points |

My Score: _____

3. I have carpentry knowledge or wood framing (construction) experience

- | | |
|---|----------|
| I have less than one experience | 1 Point |
| I have more than one year experience | 2 Points |
| I have more than two years' experience | 4 Points |
| I have more than four years' experience | 5 Points |

My Score: _____

4. I know how the building materials we sell are used in a project

- | | |
|--|----------|
| I am unsure how they are used | 1 Point |
| I know how at least 50% of the products we sell are used | 3 Points |
| I know how our products are used | 5 Points |

My Score: _____

5. I know how to convert inches to feet and feet to inches

- | | |
|---|----------|
| I do not know how to complete this task | 1 Point |
| I know how to do this with a feet inch calculator | 3 Points |
| I know how to do this operation | 5 Points |

My Score: _____

Answer the following with the best answer available. 5 Points each

6. The purpose of a foundation is to
- help the building settle
 - distribute the weight of the building to the soil below
 - provide a basement

5 Points _____

7. Most lumber in the US today is
- plain sawn
 - hand sawn
 - quarter sawn

5 Points _____

8. Most framing lumber has a moisture content of
- 0%
 - 13%
 - 19%
 - 30%
 - none of the above

5 Points _____

9. Most framing lumber comes from
- hardwoods
 - wood scraps glued together under pressure
 - softwoods

5 Points _____

10. An example of a manufacturing defect found in wood would be
- a knothole
 - bowing
 - termites
 - dry rot

5 Points _____

11. Insulation materials are rated for efficiency
- by the letter "R"
 - in inches
 - by the letter "I"

5 Points _____

12. The proper unit of measurement for roofing materials is the
- cubic yard
 - bundle
 - square
 - pound

5 Points _____

13. High-flex gypsum board is used to

- a. cover ceilings
- b. form tight curves on walls
- c. provide a fireproof barrier
- d. reduce impact noise
- e. provide a vapor barrier

5 Points_____

14. The least expensive finish on an interior partition is

- a. stucco
- b. ceramic tile
- c. skim-coat plaster on gypsum board
- d. gypsum board

5 Points_____

15. The size of a masonry mortar joint is normally

- a. 1/16"
- b. 1/8"
- c. 1/4"
- d. 3/8"
- e. 1/2"

5 Points_____

16. When installing batting insulation in a wall, the "Kraft faced" paper side goes towards:

- a. the heated side of the wall
- b. the cold side of the wall
- c. doesn't matter
- d. none of the above

5 Points_____

17. Before wood can be used in construction, it must be

- a. painted
- b. sanded
- c. seasoned
- d. pressure treated

5 Points_____

18. _____ are generally considered the weakest part of wood construction.

- a. Studs
- b. Fasteners
- c. Headers
- d. Sheathing panels

5 Points_____

19. Furniture and high-grade flooring are generally made from

- a. softwoods
- b. synthetic resin
- c. hardwoods
- d. laminated panels

5 Points_____

20. Most lumber is purchased by:

- a. the linear foot
- b. the pound
- c. the square yard
- d. the board foot

5 Points _____

Total Score _____

If your Total Score is:

- 59 Points or lower Assessment results recommend registration for this course first to build a foundation before taking the Basic/Beginner Blueprint Reading & Estimating course.
- 60 - 79 Points You probably have a good foundation of knowledge however consider using this course to fill in the missing links in your understanding of Building Materials and/or if you feel that you still require a more comprehensive understanding of Building Materials.
- 80- 100 Points Consider taking the Assessment for the Basic/Beginner Blueprint Reading & Estimating course to confirm you're positioned correctly to skip Introduction to Building Materials begin with the Basic/Beginner Blueprint Reading and Estimating.

Please complete the questions below to provide additional information to the instructor to ensure that specific objectives are achieved during the course.

1. What are your expectations or goals for this course?

2. Is there a specific question, topic, situation, or problem which you want to ensure is addressed during the course?

Name _____ Company _____

Phone# _____ Email _____

Please return completed form to pmchale@nrla.org or fax to 518.880.6381