

Roof Trusses: Verify Restraint Before the Next Lift

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Why this matters

One upright truss does not establish a stable roof assembly. The crew must know how the first truss is supported and how restraint and bracing develop before each lift is released or another load is added.

Objective: Verify the installation sequence, temporary restraint and bracing for the actual wood-truss assembly.

Key hazards or failure points

Unready supports; missing restraint or diagonal bracing; damaged trusses; premature crane release; improvised repairs; falls and unreviewed roof loading.

Practical controls

- Use current project documents, truss information and applicable installation guidance. Resolve the first-truss support and each advancing stage before hoisting; obtain required design decisions for conditions outside the guidance.
- Prepare the specified handling arrangement, protected receiving positions and fall protection. Keep workers off unrestrained members; do not make the truss itself an improvised access route.
- Install the required restraint, bracing and connections in sequence. Hold damage, fit conflicts and brace changes for the responsible manufacturer or designer's disposition.

Verify It in the Field

Match truss marks, supporting locations and drawing revisions before lifting. Ask the framing lead to identify the actual first-truss support and bracing instructions.

Before release, the designated checker confirms the installed restraint, diagonal bracing and connections against that stage's requirements. Record the truss or bay, detail, findings and release communication.

Confirm the next crew knows what remains incomplete and which loading or brace changes are prohibited. Verify protected access and the stop signal remain workable as the assembly grows; never test stability by releasing the lift.

Stop and reassess

Hold affected work for missing instructions, damaged members or plates, unreviewed support or spacing changes, incomplete bracing, unexpected movement, or weather that defeats the lift plan. Keep clear and obtain a safe correction and recheck before proceeding.

Ask the crew

1. What supports the first truss before the crane releases?
2. Which restraint and bracing are required at the next stage?
3. Who authorizes loading or removal of temporary support?

Use the task plan and required specialist decisions before exposure.

Sources: SBCA BCSI overview; OSHA 1926.501–.503, .1425; actual truss documents.

Free next step: [JHA/JSA planning & field-verification worksheet](#)

Expanded guidance and separate forms: toddjeromejenkins.com/toolbox-talks/roof-truss-installation-bracing