

Newsletter

Why We Need More Women in Construction

When you picture construction, what do you see?

For many, it's still rows of men in hi-vis jackets but that image needs to change and fast. Women make up less than 16% of the workforce, even as the UK faces demand for 1.5 million new homes by 2029 and a growing skills shortage.

Take Emily Shaw. She turned down a traditional legal career to take up a construction apprenticeship. What she discovered was a career full of variety, hands-on learning and the chance to make a visible difference every single day.

Her story matters. Because it challenges the old stereotype of construction as a "man's world" and proves that women not only belong here, but thrive here.

When women are part of construction, the whole industry benefits in many ways lets see how ➔

- Collaboration & communication improve on site and in offices.
- Leadership with empathy builds stronger, more trusted teams.
- Diverse perspectives drive innovation and problem solving.
- Healthier cultures emerge, where mental health is taken seriously and silence isn't mistaken for strength.

But barriers still remain.

From poorly fitted PPE to outdated site attitudes, women are still underrepresented. Yet progress is happening: mentoring networks, flexible working, diversity strategies and platforms like TaskHer, which connects homeowners with tradeswomen, are opening doors.

This isn't just about filling skills gaps. It's about reshaping the culture of construction into one where everyone regardless of gender feels safe, supported and valued.

Question:

If your daughter, sister or partner wanted to join construction would she feel welcome on your site?



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of Onward Shift
Vishal Narbheram

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