



Your Checklist Guide for Effortless Crane Hire

(Plus Frequently Asked Questions)

There are 6 key Processes that can make your Crane Hire experience effortless if we work together to manage them efficiently:

- ✓ Site Planning
- ✓ Engineering of the Base
- ✓ Installation & Commissioning Transport
- ✓ Operator Training
- ✓ Maintenance & Servicing
- ✓ Dismantling

Site Planning is the most important step and compiling the following information provides an excellent start:

- ✓ Site Address & Project Details
- ✓ Access to Architectural Drawings (.pdf format is fine)
- ✓ A Summary of the Type of Construction material(s) to be used
- ✓ A Profile of the Intended Material Handling Location / Zone
- ✓ General Access Details for Trucks etc. that will be needed for Active Crane Hire

Understanding your site is crucial for choosing the correct type of crane and crane location to guarantee the maximum benefit from a permanent onsite crane. Choosing the wrong crane can impact the duration of your project and changing cranes involves substantial additional expense.

That's why the team at Active Crane Hire consider Site Planning as the most important step.

The Engineering of the Base is also extremely important and over the last 12 or more years Active Crane Hire has provided well over 350 Crane Base Designs for our clients.

There are many ways to install a crane on site and the correct type of crane base avoids safety issues and last minute costly modifications.

We have a lot of experience in that field now and know that it is a balance between cost and safety... both principles must apply. Our outstanding safety record proves that we have mastered this difficult task to the benefit of our clients.

Active Crane Hire offers you the services of our trusted structural engineering consultant, O'Hearn Consulting Pty Ltd. They have an excellent track record.

To prepare a Crane Base Design you will need to supply:

- ✓ Geotechnical site specific information
- ✓ Structural Drawings
- ✓ Architectural Drawings
- ✓ Site Specific Surveys of the Heights of Surrounding Structures / Buildings



Your Crane Base Design Drawings will provide your Project Manager and Site Personnel with all of the relevant items specified and ready for construction.

After construction, our Engineering Consultant will issue the appropriate Crane Base Certification.

Please note... most crane base designs will involve concrete so you will need to keep test samples of the concrete with the concrete test results for examination by our Engineer before the release of the Crane Base Certificate.

Installation & Commissioning Transport involves site visits leading up to the “Big Day” by our team and our mobile crane contractor. We'll lock in the appropriate size of mobile crane for the installation and show the site personnel the mobile crane layout and positioning.

By this stage, Active Crane Hire staff will have already formed a solid relationship with your leading personnel on the construction site through the crane selection and crane base design processes.

However, you will need to plan for the day.

There will be extra vehicles and machinery (for example... semi-trailers, a mobile crane...) plus a full rigging crew who will also have their support vehicles.

When the mobile crane needs to be setup on the street, we encourage all of our clients to allow Active Crane Hire to co-ordinate the required Traffic Management Plan. We will organise the relevant council / police / road and transport authority permits plus traffic control on the day. That way, there will be no late surprises due to non-conformance with regulations.

In case this seems daunting... just remember that Active Crane Hire is a team of Specialists and we're here to help you.

All we really require is clear access to the site and to have leading site personnel present on the day... plus your assurance that no other work is carried out on the day or that an established safety exclusion zone which we mark out is absolutely respected.

Crane installation is high risk work and we cannot have any other workers on site under our lifting zones.

Let's not forget the significance of Cleaning the Crane Base and having Good Access to it. A Crane Base that hasn't been maintained can be full of water.

We'll also need adequate Electrical Power Supply to the crane and that's your responsibility. The amount of power needed does vary from crane model to model but it will be specified in advance by our team.

Typically, we need a hard wired connection on the day of installation to our crane's isolator box that's completed by your site electrician.

Please note... the timing of the availability of power is crucial on the day of installation so we will keep you informed to avoid delays during the installation process.



Then we have the Commissioning of the Crane. The crane is installed and the major vehicles like the mobile crane are starting to leave the site but our work is not yet finished.

The Active Crane Hire team will begin the commissioning process which includes a full test and setting the necessary overload limits. We strictly follow the crane manufacturer's specifications and process. Once we are satisfied, we will issue a Commissioning Report verifying that the crane is fit for use.

The final step in the Installation Process is the handover and the Induction of the Crane Operator. This involves briefing your ticketed crane operator on the safe use of the crane, reporting procedures and general housekeeping rules.

Because we are a full service company, we do provide a Crane Logbook.

It is site specific and is handed over to the crane operator / site personnel to be maintained as per the Active Crane Hire instructions delivered in the Induction Process. The logbook is a very significant document and should be kept in the same safe place all of the time.

At the end of the project we will take back the complete logbook including the daily operating sheets to become a record of our crane's history. You are welcome to take a copy before we dismantle the crane.

We provide this service so that our clients (crane hirers) and we (crane suppliers) comply fully with all OHS Rules & Regulations and responsibilities.

Operator Training is also provided as a part of our **Full Service Approach**. We can assist you with all of your needs... just give us a call.

Maintenance & Servicing are mandatory processes to avoid the downtime that can cost you dearly. Active Crane Hire has our own fully trained Service & Maintenance Field Team for general service, maintenance and breakdowns.

If there is a breakdown, we will only engage trusted subcontractors and only if there happens to be a peak demand. With our maintenance schedules, this doesn't usually happen but you need to know that we will do everything to keep you operational.

One of our key points of difference to other crane hire companies is we stock an extensive supply of spare parts at our premises. This means our response time in critical situations when you could be losing money is second to none. It's one of the major benefits for you in choosing Active Crane Hire and one of our biggest assets.

There's no question that there are quite a number of crane suppliers to choose from these days and it is not hard to obtain a number of quotes for what appears to be similar cranes. The reality is there are different prices for cranes and crane packages and it's important to compare apples with apples.

Accepting the cheapest price might be OK and appealing at first but it's what actually happens after a crane has been installed that counts. That's when we show you what Active Crane Hire really stands for and why we say... **You're In Good Hands.**



That's when our clients realise they have made the right choice and receive service of the highest standard. Ultimately, this often turns out to be much more cost effective than the initial "cheaper price".

Scheduled Routine Service and Maintenance dictates that we service our cranes every 8 to 12 weeks.

This is the preventative service schedule in accordance with the manufacturer's recommendations and is additional to the daily operating checks to be done by the crane operator.

We work together with you so we don't disrupt your schedule. Our service personnel call our customers in advance to book a time that suits and because we are specialists, we generally only require access to the crane for 1.5 to 2 hours for a major service.

We only have highly trained people who do excellent work. They need their own family time and we respect that... so we don't offer Crane Service outside of normal operating hours or on weekends.

It's unlikely but what happens if you have a problem?

Well... with Active Crane Hire, You're In Good Hands so don't try to fix it yourself.

During the Crane Induction Training we would have explained our fault finding procedures and it is important to follow them. A telephone call is always welcome but we will need to have the fault reported in writing and the fault report forwarded by email or fax.

The Crane Logbook will give you the reporting procedures to follow to ensure the fault gets addressed by the right people at Active Crane Hire and fixed without delay.

Following these procedures also provides evidence and comfort in the event that the Crane Records become a part of a safety audit by Work Cover.

What we do first is to assess whether your crane is not working at all or if there is only a minor technical issue which means your crane is safe to still be operated. Reducing downtime is our priority!

If a crane doesn't work at all then our Service Personnel will swing into action with your crane as a High Priority. We have the communications to move Service Field Staff around at any time from low priority to high priority work. This system works and keeps any unexpected downtime to a minimum.

Dismantling might seem easy in concept but planning is still essential to avoid disruption to your schedule. The same structured principles that applied on Installation Day also apply now... please refer back to them.

Proper Planning and Co-Ordination are the key factors in smooth crane removal.

We need at least a minimum of two weeks (14 days) notice of the day you would like your crane removed. Things might have changed from your Installation Day... additional road permits may be required and / or it just might be Holiday times.

A Neglected Crane Base can be a big problem for you. One of the last items to be retrieved from a Tower Crane Positioning is the crane starter legs.

It is extremely important that the crane base is cleaned prior to the day of dismantling so the crane starter legs are clearly exposed and not embedded in rubbish or concrete. A regular service and cleaning programme of the Crane Base Pit during your construction programme will pay off and avoid any surprise expense.

Frequently Asked Questions:

Why use a permanent onsite crane?

There are a variety of reasons and associated benefits...

✓ **ROI and Financial Benefits due to the increase in construction speed:**

A permanent onsite self-erecting crane or tower crane brings efficiency to all of your material handling. Because material handling is a key process in the building and construction industry and a major cost factor, cranes have a significant impact on the speed of construction and therefore the reduction of material handling costs. Just consider the financial benefit at the end of a building project if you can reduce the construction time by a minimum of 25% when using a permanent onsite crane.

✓ **OHS Benefits:**

Because cranes take care of all the heavy lifting on a building site, they significantly reduce the risk of injury to personnel associated with heavy lifting. A permanent onsite crane also helps to keep the building site "clean and organized" and reduces the risks of tripping or falling.

✓ **Motivation of Onsite Staff:**

By providing a permanent onsite crane, building personnel can concentrate on the actual construction work because they are not heavily involved in the physical task of lifting materials. This drives the momentum of building activity and reduces the danger of physical burnout of onsite staff.

✓ **Benefits to the Neighbourhood:**

Construction activity can have a negative impact on the residents of the immediate neighbourhood due to noise, traffic congestion and dust. Reducing the timeframe of construction reduces the timeframe of inconvenience. A crane positioned on site rather than an occasional temporary one on the street also reduces traffic congestion and therefore the frustration of residents. Cranes that are electric and emission free are ideal for keeping the construction noise and pollution to a minimum.

How much does a permanent onsite self-erecting crane or tower crane hire cost?

On average a self-erecting crane hire can cost as little as the cost of one (1) labourer per week. If you add in the cost of another person (the crane operator) then you have a budget for material handling. To say the obvious... the combination of crane and operator is extremely productive as the lifting crane never gets tired and can lift pallets of bricks, reo,



sand, formwork, etc. all day long.

What is the process to organize a crane?

Simply call us at Active Crane Hire and we will guide you step by step.

We will help you to choose the correct type of crane and assist you in finding the best and most cost effective crane position on your site.

Once the correct crane type and crane position is selected we will organize the proper crane base design through our structural engineer in consultation with your building engineer.

Once the crane base has been established Active Crane Hire will organize the whole process of crane installation, traffic management, council permits etc.

Active Crane Hire will guide you step by step throughout the complete process of crane site planning, crane establishment, service and maintenance plus crane removal.

Who can operate a crane?

A self-erecting tower crane requires a licensed Operator with a CS Class Certificate of Competency.

A tower crane requires a licensed Operator with a CT Class certificate of Competency.

Our Active Crane Hire specialists can also guide you in obtaining these licenses – Just give us a call.

Our core business is built on the "dry hire" of cranes (that is, crane hire without an operator). However, we are able to recommend Companies who specialize in the supply of crane operators or we are also able to recommend licensed operators who are looking for work. The choice is yours... just give us a call

What are the key elements to consider before choosing a crane supplier?

At Active Crane Hire we know that as a prospective client you have a choice of different crane suppliers but you should ask yourself the following questions:

✓ **Did you visit your Crane Supplier at their crane yard?**

We know that usually a supplier visits the customer. However in the crane industry it is very important that the customer also visits the supplier. Only by seeing the scope of their operations will you be able to verify the promises which have been made by your potential crane supplier.

✓ **Have you asked to inspect a working crane?**

Whether you are a crane expert or not, a brief visit / crane inspection at a working site or at the supplier's premises will give you further comfort in your decision.

✓ **Who provides the Service Backup?**



Once a crane is established on site it becomes the heart and lungs of the construction site. This becomes very evident if the crane stops working. It is then crucial that your supplier has a quick and reliable backup service which keeps the crane "downtime" to a minimum.

At Active Crane Hire we employ our own service team and factory trained electrician and limit our reliance on subcontractors. This level of in house service has been a key factor in our high customer satisfaction rating and generates a high level of repeat business.

✓ **Have you checked their stock level and crane ownership?**

Asking "How many cranes do you have?" is a very important question to ask. After all, you want to make sure that once you choose a crane the supplier can also supply a crane.

Also check who owns the crane which will be delivered as some crane suppliers rely heavily on the sub-hire of cranes from others. Needless to say this could lead to complications if the crane is not functioning properly.

At Active Crane Hire, we have a fleet in excess of 70 POTAIN cranes. This makes the allocation of cranes and crane selection easier, even in a high demand construction cycle.

✓ **Have you obtained references?**

There is no harm in talking to construction companies who have previously used your potential crane supplier.

And Beware of the Cheapest Offer

It is not possible to acquire high value for little money. Cheap can become expensive... so beware of that.

Unfortunately once a crane has been established or the crane base has been installed you have made your choice of crane supplier. It is not practicable to change a crane supplier during the duration of the construction project due to the high costs involved.

If your crane supplier does not turn out to be what was promised you are, like it or not, stuck with them for the duration of the project. Therefore please... Buyer Beware.

The Crane industry is highly regulated and equipment costs and upkeep are capital intensive. So once again, check out your supplier and beware of the cheapest offer.

Why Active Crane Hire?

We handle all of these steps for our Clients every day and that's why they stick with us.

We are Crane Hire & Sales Specialists.

Call 1300 73 04 03