

## Techware Tools Northwest Contracting for Success

Northwest Contracting, Inc. is a commercial and industrial design-build general contractor serving the Bismarck and Minot, North Dakota area. In addition to serving as a general contractor, the company self-performs much of its work, including the concrete and steel trades. Northwest Contracting requires a versatile and powerful construction software solution to enable it to deliver profitable jobs — on time and on budget. For Northwest Contracting, that solution is Sage Timberline Office, backed by the professionals at Techware.

### Move to a Construction-Specific Solution

“We had outgrown our general accounting software,” recalls Eric Brenden, office manager for Northwest Contracting. “We wanted to move to a construction-specific package that was built for contractors like us. We chose Sage Timberline Office for its excellent reputation. So many general contractors use it; we knew it would work well for us.”

The firm engaged the experts at Techware to implement the Sage Timberline Office Accounting, Payroll, Project Management, and Estimating components. “Techware’s expertise helped make this project a success,” says Brenden. “Their consultants came and worked with us to configure the software to work the way we work.”

### Detailed Cost Tracking

Brenden says one of the big advantages the company is enjoying is better access to job information. “Techware tailored several of the standard reports to draw out the information we need, such as labor hours by cost code and average labor rates across jobs,” he says.

Accurate job cost tracking is complicated because rather than subcontracting, the firm performs much of its own work. “We have to track individual hours by cost code and type, rather than just getting an invoice from a supplier,” says Brenden. “Sage Timberline Office helps us to monitor our labor costs, constantly comparing them to estimates. As a result, we can take action quickly to keep labor costs in line.”

### The Benefits of Integration

The integration between the project management, job costing, and accounting functions increases productivity among the staff and helps the team keep jobs on track. “It is ideal to have this information integrated and easily available,” Brenden says. “We can review previous estimates and job profitability to help us accurately bid new projects. In the past, we would have to request this kind of information from the accounting department and wait for a response.”

Another area where the integrated nature of Sage Timberline Office is delivering benefits is with Address Book, which provides a single point of entry and reference for all customer and vendor information, ensuring everyone is working from the same information.

Sage Timberline Office and Techware deliver a hard-working solution for Northwest Contracting. “We have a great solution now with plenty of room to grow,” Brenden concludes.

#### Customer:

**Northwest Contracting, Inc.**

#### Industry:

Commercial/Industrial Construction

#### Location:

Bismarck, North Dakota

#### Number of Locations: Two

#### System:

**Sage Timberline Office**

The Techware logo features the word "tech" in a black, lowercase, sans-serif font, followed by "ware" in a red, lowercase, sans-serif font. A small graphic of three dots is positioned between the two words.

#### Techware

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The Sage logo consists of the word "sage" in a lowercase, sans-serif font, with a stylized leaf graphic above the letter 'e'.

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