## FUNCTIONAL FITNESS

Sample One-Week Programme for Construction Workers

Building Strength for the Job

Construction work is one of the most physically demanding professions, which is exactly why taking care of your body matters. This one-week functional fitness plan has been designed with construction workers in mind, focusing on movements that reflect real-world tasks: lifting, carrying, climbing and staying mobile through long shifts.

Whether you're new to training or looking to stay sharp and injury-free, this plan should help you build strength, stability and endurance where it counts most – on site and in life.

Goal: Build strength, mobility, and stamina that directly support construction work, reducing injury risk and improving on-site performance

**Schedule:** 3–4 training days plus 2 active recovery days and 1 full rest day

**Session length:** 45–60 minutes each (adapt to your fitness level)



# DAY 1 – FUNCTIONAL STRENGTH (LOWER BODY FOCUS)

#### WARM-UP:

- 5 MIN BRISK WALK OR LIGHT JOG
- DYNAMIC STRETCHES LEG SWINGS, HIP CIRCLES AND ARM CIRCLES

#### MAIN SET:

- SQUATS  $-3 \times 10$
- DEADLIFTS 3 × 8
- FARMER'S CARRIES 3 × 30 METRES
- STEP-UPS (ONTO A STURDY BOX OR STAIR)  $-3 \times 10$  EACH LEG

#### CORE:

- FRONT PLANK 3 × 30 SEC
- SIDE PLANKS 3 × 20 SEC EACH SIDE

#### COOL-DOWN:

• HAMSTRING, HIP FLEXOR AND SHOULDER STRETCHES

## DAY 2 - MOBILITY AND ENDURANCE

#### WARM-UP:

10 MIN LIGHT CARDIO (ROW, CYCLE OR BRISK WALK)

#### MAIN SET:

- Kettlebell Swings 3 × 12
- LUNGES 3 × 10 EACH LEG
- STEP-UPS 3 × 10 EACH SIDE

#### CARDIO:

 25–30 MIN STEADY-STATE CARDIO (JOGGING, CYCLING OR FAST WALKING)

#### MOBILITY/RECOVERY:

FOAM ROLLING OR STRETCHING MAJOR MUSCLE GROUPS

### DAY 3 – REST OF LIGHT ACTIVE RECOVERY

#### **OPTIONS (IF CHOOSING ACTIVE RECOVERY):**

- GENTLE WALK, MOBILITY WORK, YOGA OR LIGHT SWIMMING
- Focus on hydration, nutrition and quality sleep

## DAY 4 – UPPER BODY AND CORE STRENGTH

#### WARM-UP:

SHOULDER CIRCLES, ARM SWINGS AND LIGHT PUSH-UPS

#### MAIN SET:

- Push-ups  $-3 \times 12$
- Pull-ups or inverted rows 3 × 8-10
- Overhead press (with dumbbells or resistance bands)  $3 \times 10$
- Carry drills (with weighted bag)  $-3 \times 30$  metres

#### CORE:

- Bird-dogs  $-3 \times 10$
- SIDE PLANKS  $-3 \times 30$  SEC EACH

#### COOL-DOWN:

UPPER BODY STRETCHES, ESPECIALLY CHEST AND SHOULDERS

## DAY 5 - FUNCTIONAL CONDITIONING

#### WARM-UP:

- 5 MIN LIGHT CARDIO
- DYNAMIC MOBILITY (HIPS, SHOULDERS AND ANKLES)

### MAIN CIRCUIT (3 ROUNDS, RESTING FOR 60-90 SECONDS BETWEEN ROUNDS):

- Kettlebell or sandbag clean and press 10 reps
- STEP-UPS 10 EACH LEG
- Push-ups 12
- PLANK SHOULDER TAPS 30 SEC
- 200 M BRISK WALK OR LIGHT JOG

#### COOL-DOWN:

FULL BODY STRETCH AND FOAM ROLL

## DAY 6 - ACTIVE RECOVERY

#### SUGGESTIONS:

- Walk, Cycle, or play a light recreational sport
- Include at least 10 minutes of stretching or yoga-style mobility

## DAY 7 - FULL REST

Take the day off! Muscles and Joints Repair and strengthen during rest so this recovery time is just as important as the workout.

## TIPS FOR SUCCESS

- Stay hydrated and eat balanced meals rich in protein and complex carbs
- Adjust weights and intensity to suit your level
- Always warm up before and cool down after sessions
- Listen to your body —
  construction is already
  physical, so the goal is
  balance, not burnout

