

Project Plan Comparison Chart by Methodology

Try  **smartsheet** for free

Methodology	Planning Style	Scope Statement	Timeline / Flexibility	Common Uses
Waterfall	Sequential and phase-based	Fixed and detailed upfront	Rigid with clear milestones	Projects with fixed deliverables and well-defined requirements—including construction or manufacturing projects
Critical Path Method (CPM)	Focused on critical tasks and dependencies	Clearly defined with a focus on the critical path	Rigid, dictated by the critical path	Large, complex projects with interdependent tasks—for example, engineering, construction, and aerospace projects
Agile	Iterative and adaptive	Flexible with evolving requirements	Highly flexible	Projects that require frequent changes and rapid iteration—such as software development or product development
Kanban	Visual and flow-based	Minimal definition, focused on work items	Flexible with no fixed end date	Projects focused on continuous delivery and efficiency—such as IT operations and support teams
PRINCE2	Structured and process-driven	Detailed upfront and product-based	Controlled timeline with built-in review points	Projects that require structured, process-driven management with a focus on governance—including government, public sector, and corporate projects
Six Sigma	Focused on data and process improvement	Clearly defined with a focus on quality	Rigid with defined phases (DMAIC)	Process improvement and quality management projects—often in manufacturing, healthcare, and finance
Lean	Focused on waste reduction and value improvement	Flexible with a focus on customer value	Flexible with focus on flow efficiency	Projects that aim to reduce waste and improve efficiency—commonly used in manufacturing, logistics, and the service industry

DISCLAIMER

Any articles, templates, or information provided by Smartsheet on the website are for reference only. While we strive to keep the information up to date and correct, we make no representations or warranties of any kind, express or implied, about the completeness, accuracy, reliability, suitability, or availability with respect to the website or the information, articles, templates, or related graphics contained on the website. Any reliance you place on such information is therefore strictly at your own risk.