

MAKING SPACE ON SITE:

an industry guideline to manage COVID-19 on new housing sites



In line with national work, health and safety requirements and the current health and safety obligations to meet COVID-19 working arrangements, the residential (domestic) building industry commits to making space on site to minimise the risk of exposure to COVID-19.

Builders and trade contractors will adopt the following principles on residential (domestic) building sites:

1 Ensure the Government's social distancing criteria are met at all times by:

- Limiting access to any building site to essential workers involved in activity on the given day
- Adopting the 1.5 metre social distancing requirement at all times
- Applying the 1 person per 4 square metre rule for work being undertaken in enclosed or internal spaces
- Limiting any external visitors or third parties (e.g. building inspections) to be by exception and at a time when no one else is on site apart from the builder and/or site supervisor
- Providing all necessary clear work zones and work stations for dedicated tasks
- Supporting workers to travel alone in company or private vehicles to and from site

2 Ensure the Government's self-isolation rules are met at all times by:

- Keeping any person displaying cold, flu or similar symptoms away from sites until the symptoms have passed or a negative test is provided to the site supervisor
- Enforcing the 14 day self-isolation policy for anyone returning from overseas or from interstate
- Keeping any person who has been in close contact and required to self-isolate off site

3 Ensure adequate hygiene facilities are provided on site for all workers by:

- Providing adequate cleaning products and facilities for all workers on site
- Implementing regular handwashing schedules
- Regularly (at least daily) cleaning and disinfecting of any common areas
- Cleaning any shared tools/plant before and after each use
- Increasing ventilation for building sites where internal work is being undertaken

4 Ensure all workers have access to appropriate safety equipment by:

- Providing all workers with access to personal protective equipment including gloves, masks and eye protection appropriate to the work they are performing on site
- Ensuring all contractors entering the site have their own personal protective equipment

5 Manage project scheduling to minimise overlaps and numbers of people on site by:

- Implementing a 'no more than 6 workers on a house' rule
- Scheduling sub-trades and work to minimise people on site and have designated work zones away from other workers performing different tasks
- Scheduling regulatory inspections and checks to implement a one only on site check (builder/manager and inspector)
- Scheduling/staggering break times for workers i.e. lunch and morning break to avoid on-site gatherings during these times

6 Facilitate contactless deliveries, payments and travelling out of peak times by:

- Going contactless as far as practicable with orders and site deliveries
- Maintaining work sites operation times to allow workers to travel to and from site in off peak times

7 Facilitate site inductions and updates on latest Government requirements by:

- Undertaking on-site inductions prior to permitting anyone on to site
- Conducting regular 'tool box' discussions to enable workers to stay informed on risks and hazards including specifically about latest Government COVID-19 updates
- Advising all workers of the steps that will be taken should a person enter the site with the virus or advise the site supervisor that they have been in close contact.

8 Managing the customer (home owner) by:

- Confirming before entering a work site that nobody else will be on site that has been overseas, is showing symptoms or has the virus
- Communicating with home owners on all necessary decisions, variations and work scheduling using phone or electronic means