

MAKING SPACE ON SITE:

an industry guideline to manage COVID-19 on renovation and repair 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 and those who undertake renovation or repair work commit to making space on site to minimise the risk of exposure to COVID-19.

HIA members will adopt the following principles on renovation and repair 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
- Applying the **1 person per 4 square metre** rule for building work being undertaken in enclosed or internal spaces
- Limiting any **external visitors or third parties** (e.g. building inspections) to be by exception and appointment only and when no one else is on site apart from builder and/or site supervisor

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

- **Contacting the home owner** prior to each working day to confirm that no person in the home is required to **self-isolate**
- 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 interstate immediately
- Keeping any person who has been in **close contact** and required to **self-isolate** away from the site

3 Managing the customer (when home owner remains living at building site) by:

- Providing the home owner with an **outline of all COVID-19 site safety measures** that will be implemented on site and providing updates on any changes
- Developing an **action plan** in consultation with the home owner regarding site management
- Having **ongoing and open discussions** on a daily (or more frequent) basis with home owners on key issues such as scheduling, staging of work and site safety
- Communicating with home owners, using **phone or electronic means**, for decisions effecting building contract conditions or work scheduling

4 Isolating all building work areas from non-building work areas by:

- Providing all necessary **clear work zones** and work stations for dedicated tasks
- Providing dedicated (and sign posted) **'workers only'** building access and egress points where practical
- Providing **physical separation and barriers** between building work and non-building work areas
- Facilitating as much **off-site construction work** as practical
- Carrying out as many tasks as possible **external to the building** (with appropriate noise control and safety measures)

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

- Implementing a **'no more than 6 workers on site rule'**
- Scheduling sub-trades and work to **minimise people on site** and have **designated work zones** away from other workers performing different tasks
- Maintaining a **daily record** of all persons on site
- Supporting workers to **travel alone** in company or private vehicles to and from site

6 Ensure workers have access to appropriate PPE by:

- Providing all workers with access to **personal protective equipment** including clothing, 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**

7 Ensure adequate hygiene and safety facilities are provided on site for all workers by:

- Providing adequate cleaning products and facilities for all people on site
- Implementing **regular handwashing schedules** for workers
- Regularly (daily) **cleaning and disinfecting** of any common work zone areas with occupants i.e. door handles, taps, etc.
- Increasing **ventilation** where internal work is being undertaken
- **Minimise dust, waste build up and removal of waste** to maintain a safe and comfortable environment for homeowners while work is carried out

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

- Going **contactless** as far as practicable with orders and site deliveries
- Maintaining work site operation times to allow workers to travel to and from sites in **off peak times**
- Maintaining work site operation times that coincide with when home owners are **off-site** (where possible)

9 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**
- Developing an **action plan** for how the site will be managed should a person enter the site with the virus or advise the site supervisor that they have been in close contact
- Providing advice to all workers about the **action plan** that will be implemented should a person enter the site with the virus or advise the site supervisor that they have been in close contact