

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.

Master Plumbers members will adopt the following principles on new residential (domestic) building sites

1. ENSURE THE GOVERNMENT'S SOCIAL DISTANCING

CRITERIA ARE MET AT ALL TIMES BY:

- Wearing of **face coverings is mandatory on all sites including travel to and from site**
- 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 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

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

5. MANAGE ACCESS TO SITE:

- Implementing **temperature testing** for all prior to site access
- Daily screening and declaration of COVID risk for everyone on site
- Workplace mapping of everyone on site (date, time and activity including breaks)
- 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 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