

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.

Master Plumbers 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:

- **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 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 ACCESS TO SITE:

- Implementing temperature testing for all prior to site access where practicable
- 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 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