

BUILDER'S MATE

ISSUE 28 | FEBRUARY 2008



Safe as houses?

Last year, DIY-ers put in about 10,000 claims to ACC for injuries around the home. But while injuries from DIY disasters outnumber those sustained on building sites, the ACC bill for construction work injuries is still well over \$30 million a year, with another \$46 million from ongoing claims.

Of all building trades, residential builders have the highest injury rate. Falls, lifting injuries, being struck by something and hearing loss are all widely reported.

The start of the year is an ideal time to look at the risks around you and work out how to keep safe. Here are some ideas.

Falls can be fatal. Make sure you have a ladder which is suitable for the particular job you are doing and use it properly. Scaffolds should be on proper founding, with adequate ties to the building,

bracing and guard rails. Working platforms should be fully planked with planks which are restrained. A scaffold 5 m or more above the ground should be erected by someone with a certificate of competency as a scaffolder.

A site safety checklist should detail:

- location of the hazard identification board
- amenities and facilities (details of first aid facilities, making sure there is adequate lighting and ventilation, and arrangements for toilets and washing facilities) >

INDUSTRY NEWS

Licensing gets underway

Carpenters, builders, site supervisors, construction managers and designers can now apply to be licensed under the Licensed Building Practitioners Scheme.

The scheme is only voluntary at this stage, but in time certain types of work will only be able to be done or supervised by someone with a licence.

Over 7,000 application packs have been sent out.

Another six licence classes – covering brick and blocklaying, external plastering, roofing, concrete structure, steel structure and building services – are likely to be introduced from this year.

There is an application fee of \$80 and an assessment fee which varies depending on the licence – it is \$355 for carpentry.

You will need to show that you have the required skills, knowledge and experience to do the job.

Once you have a licence you will need to renew it each year. You will also need to show that you are keeping up with changes in the building industry.

If you don't get a licence you will still be able to work in the building industry, but when it comes to doing restricted work you'll need to be supervised.

HAMMER 'N' NAILS

I SAID 'FLOAT THE CONCRETE'
NOT 'FLOAT IN THE CONCRETE.'



Win!

**A BOSCH mitre saw legstand
worth \$449**





Remarkable Physios' managing director, Melissa Davidson, with apprentice carpenter, Andrew Laughton, on the Amalgamated Builders' Heritage site in Queenstown.

➤ Continued from previous page

- identify where falls of 3 m or more are possible, and ensure there are safety features like guard rails
- training requirements – tool operators must have had specific training in their use (mandatory for powder-actuated tools)
- electrical safety – keep a record of the regular inspections (3 monthly) of electrical tools, ensure they are tagged as being safe and provide an earth leakage supply for all tools
- personal protective equipment – ensure earmuffs (a minimum of Grade 3 – Grade 5 is preferable), eye protection, gloves and dust masks are available and are worn. The worker in our front photo has none of these
- hazardous substances on the site – ensure these are securely stored
- suitable footwear
- public and general safety
- storage of new and waste materials on site, and protecting the public from objects that might fall from the site.

For big sites, there should be a formal health and safety plan. A key reference is *Guidelines for the provision of facilities and general safety in the construction industry* published by the Occupational Safety & Health Service.

Consider a training course from an organisation such as Site Safe (www.sitesafe.org.nz) or Accident Compensation (www.acc.co.nz).

Physios on site

South Island construction companies Amalgamated Builders Ltd and Naylor Love Ltd have gone further, getting physiotherapists on work sites in a joint project with Remarkable Physios and ACC.

The project aims to reduce injuries through training and education.

ACC's Injury Prevention Consultant, Fraser Fyfe, says that many construction worker injuries come from physical tasks performed either incorrectly or repeatedly. "It's precisely in these areas that visits by physiotherapists and similar professions have been able to make significant reductions in the number of injuries".

Remarkable Physios' managing director and physiotherapist, Melissa Davidson, says workers are now far more aware of what they can do to move correctly and reduce the potential for injury.

Dribblings from the Old Geezer



For the last five years I have been out of front-line construction. I've been with BRANZ, writing and giving seminars (getting a jail house tan). Well, now I am back on work sites and what has changed? In some ways, not much. Building sites are still the exciting, drama-filled, living, dynamic places they were when I left for different pastures. There is, however, now more paperwork and that isn't necessarily all good ... or all bad.

Formal safety plans seem more common. Inducting all site personnel is better than it was. There should now be no excuse to not know about the particular project's hazards.

The company I contract to now uses 'near misses' as 'opportunities' to improve procedures so they won't happen again. That is not a bad way of looking at things because if you don't learn from your mistakes you are incredibly stupid. But more importantly, others should have the opportunity to learn from your mistake so it won't happen to them. A near miss for you might not miss the next person. That is why we mustn't sweep these things under the table with a "Phew that was lucky". Don't be afraid to keep learning. Keep safe.

Des Molloy

BRANZ

ADVISORY HELPLINES

For the building and construction industry

➤➤ 0800 80 80 85

For the home owner and public enquiries

➤➤ 0900 5 90 90

Calls cost \$1.99 per minute plus GST

www.branz.co.nz

At a glance

Balcony wall junctions

Where a solid balcony wall joins a taller wall, it is critical to get the construction correct.

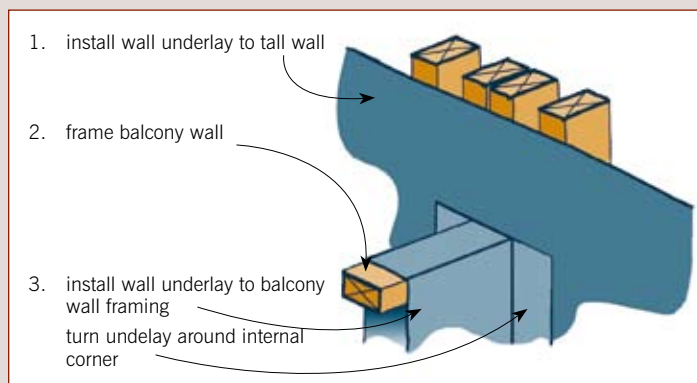
In the past, the design and construction of these junctions commonly relied on a textured finish and paint coating to keep water out. The top of the balcony walls were also usually textured and flat, which meant water could not drain off the surface. History has shown that using the cladding without the back-up of drainage and flashings was not a good approach. Walls and timber move, plaster can shrink, and cracks often formed at the junction between the two elements. Once the crack occurred, water entry followed.

There are a number of steps that need to be followed to ensure any water that gets behind the cladding can be drained out and that

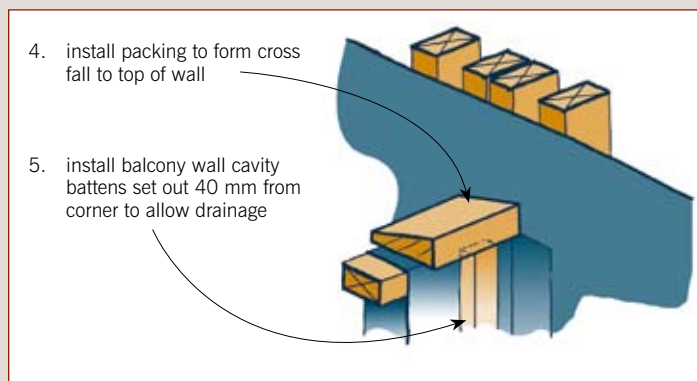
the junction between the lower balcony wall and the adjacent taller wall is adequately flashed. The top of the balcony wall should be sloped and flashed – under E2/AS1 the top of the balcony wall can be either:

- cap flashed with a 5° cross-fall, or
- under-flashed and textured (with a saddle flashing) and a 10° cross-fall.

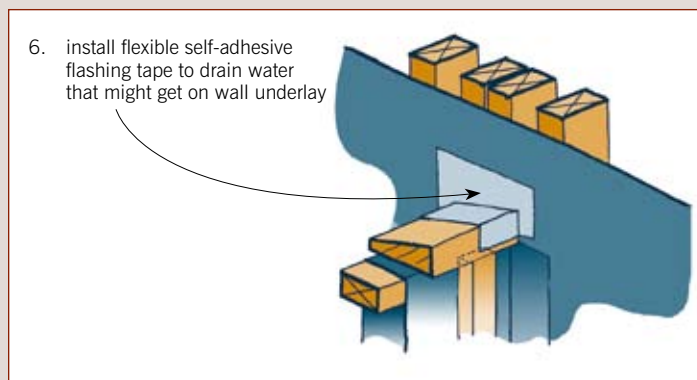
The following six drawings set out the construction steps.



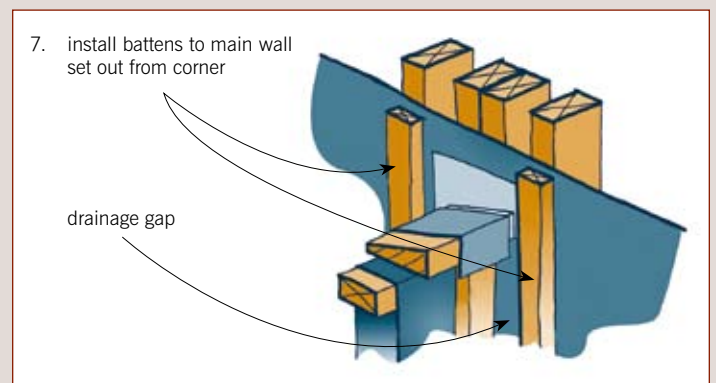
Steps 1 – 3



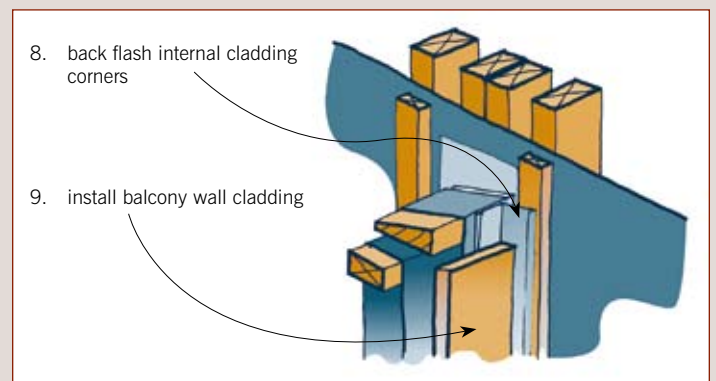
Steps 4 – 6



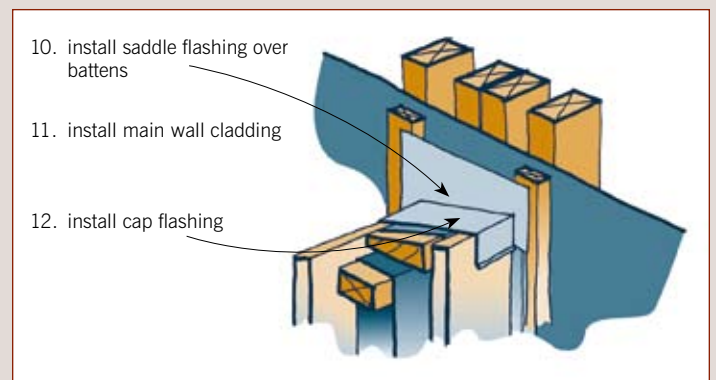
Step 6



Step 7



Steps 8 – 9



Steps 10 – 12

COMPETITION Win!



A BOSCH mitre saw legstand Worth \$449!

The BOSCH 3700 GTA mitre saw legstand is easy to use. Set-up is fast with tool-free assembly, and a safety lock provides for fast fitting of bench-top tools. The legstand takes all professional blue mitre saws and sliding mitre saws as well as most other makes of mitre saw. Extensions on both sides can give up to 3.7 m table length for long boards. Its robust construction takes a load of up to 250 kg.

The prize is provided courtesy of The Tool Shed.

All you need to win is tell us the name of the mystery tool (above, right) and what it's used for.

Send us your answer plus your name, address and telephone number on the back of an envelope. Post it (you don't need a stamp) to: Builder's Mate 28, Mystery Tool Competition, FREEPOST BRANZ, Private Bag 50 908, Porirua 5240. One entry per entrant please.

Don't forget to tell us where you picked up your copy of *Builder's Mate*! The winner will be the



What is the name of this tool picture below and what is it used for?



first correct entry drawn at 9 am on Friday 29 February 2008. Details will be posted on the BRANZ Ltd website (www.branz.co.nz) and in the next edition of *Builder's Mate*, due out on 1 April 2008.

Terms and conditions:

Entry is open to all New Zealand residents except employees and immediate families of BRANZ Ltd, BRANZ Pty, Building Research and The Tool Shed shops. The competition will close on Friday 29 February 2008. The prize is not transferable for cash. The judge's decision is final. No correspondence will be entered into.

BUILDER'S MATE WINNERS

The winner of the BM 27 competition was Sandy Jenkins from Warkworth. The mystery tool was a slater's knife (sometimes called a sax, zax or saixe) used for trimming and making holes in roofing slates. Sandy won a Makita rebate planer.



BETTER BUILDING BUSINESS

BRANZ

Ever thought of going out on your own, setting up your own business? Or already have your own business? This seminar gives practical tips and solutions for getting the best out of the Construction Contracts Act.

The seminar is a joint venture between BRANZ and the NZ Building Subcontractors Federation.

Dates and locations:

4 March Dunedin	11 March Auckland
5 March Christchurch	12 March Hamilton
6 March Wellington	

For more details and to register go to www.branz.co.nz and click on **Seminars**.



www.branz.co.nz
04 237 1170



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BLOKES on the job

JAMIE COCHRANE

On the job at Whitby, Porirua.



Favourite tool

Hand plane.

Favourite tip

Blunt the nail to avoid splitting timber.

JASON KAMARIERA

At West Harbour, Auckland.



Favourite tool

Paslode nail gun and dogyu bar.

Favourite tip

Be on time and put in the effort.

BRUCE HARRIS

Working at Jack's Point, Queenstown.



Favourite tool

Sandwich press.

Favourite tip

Listen to the boss.

Know someone on the job? Send us details of his or her favourite tip and tool and you could win \$50-worth of BRANZ books.