

builder'smate



INDUSTRY NEWS

Solar power is sizzling

Around 300 households install solar power generation systems each month, and the systems are getting bigger. The long-term average capacity of systems being installed has jumped from 3.4 kW to an average 4.5 kW. New Zealand has around 20,000 solar systems installed.

HomeFit rating for existing homes

HomeFit has been launched by the New Zealand Green Building Council to assess the health, comfort and energy efficiency of existing homes. Those meeting certain requirements get a HomeFit stamp or even a HomeFit PLUS rating, which people selling or renting property can use in advertising. The site also shows where improvements can be made. See www.homefit.org.nz.

At-risk houses may lose insurance

Some house insurers are changing how they calculate premiums. Houses at greater risk for disasters such as floods caused by rising sea levels and extreme weather events will attract higher premiums. Homes in extremely low-lying areas may even become uninsurable.

OVEREXPOSED

Summer sun can damage exposed building materials just as it burns and wrinkles skin. What are the exposure limits to bear in mind, and what are the "slip, slop, slap" equivalents for things like building underlay, primer paint or bare timber products?

In New Zealand, with our clear, less-polluted skies, we have to consider the impact of exposure to UV radiation. Manufacturers frequently set limits on the time their material can be exposed to UV. A product left to bake in the sun for too long may give reduced performance, and its warranty or guarantee may no longer be valid. It is common for

manufacturers to require sun-damaged materials to be removed and replaced with new – a costly exercise.

Many types of materials have a range of UV exposure limits before they must be covered or coated. >

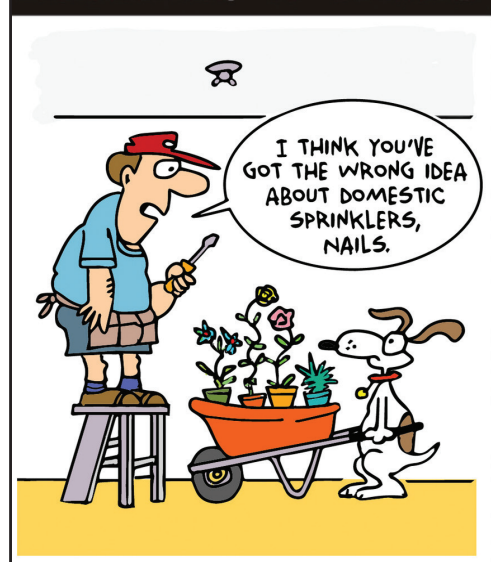


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A Milwaukee 18v
cordless hammer drill
worth \$400!

HAMMER 'N' NAILS



Wall and roof building underlays – 30–60 days maximum is typical. There are extremes: some manufacturers say their products can last up to 120 days, while other very specialised products must have cladding installed over them within 7 days. NZS 2295:2006 *Pliable, permeable building underlays* requires roof and wall underlays to retain at least 85% of their mechanical strength after UV exposure. It sets out requirements for UV exposure testing.

Flashing tape – typically 90 days, but some products allow up to 120 days.

Timber primers – typically 1 month.

Preprimed weatherboards – typically 3 weeks.

Strippable films – remove within 1 day.

Treated and untreated plywood bracing sheets/membrane substrates – 3 months, but preferably less.

Fibre-cement sheets – typically 90 days.

While we love to think of summer as an endless stretch of long dry days, it can still rain, so builders also need to guard against unwanted wetting of materials.

Particleboard and other RWB sheets will swell irreversibly if they get wet and the surface will become rougher. Some manufacturers limit exposure at 2 months “but preferably keep to

a minimum”. Others say their product “must not come into direct or prolonged contact with water”.

Kiln-dried timber should be kept dry. If it does get wet, it must be allowed to dry thoroughly.

Plywood membrane substrates should be protected from rain. They must be dry when the membrane is applied.

Plywood wall claddings should be coated immediately after installation to avoid surface staining, fading or wetting.

Fibre-cement weatherboards should be kept dry until they are coated.

Kraft paper should not get wet at all. [Many flexible wall underlays are water-resistant, but they **must not** be treated as a weatherskin for insulation and linings to be installed before the cladding.]

With any building material, read the manufacturer’s installation/application instructions [and BRANZ Appraisal, where available] and follow the recommendations and requirements. In some harsh environments – where extensive salt spray is carried in the air and deposited on surfaces, for example – exposure times may be reduced.



Mouthpiece

Protecting your tools

Theft of tools from trade vehicles and building sites is a big problem. Police report that about \$200,000 of hand and power tools were stolen from the Waitemata/North Shore area in just 1 month!

Too many sites and vehicles don’t have enough security. Having insurance is good, but you’ll still be out of pocket because deductibles for commercial tool thefts are often around \$1,000.

Here are some steps you can take to protect your work tools – and your wallet.

Keeping tools safe on site

- Write down the serial numbers of all your power tools and equipment.
- Buy an identification kit to put hidden marks on all your tools – Police have special lights that can see the ID marks.
- Keep photographs of your tools.
- Keep garages and garden/tool sheds securely locked.
- Consider employing security on construction sites.

- Consider installing security cameras on construction sites.
- Install good quality locks on site container lock-ups.

Keeping tools safe in the truck

- Get a lockable purpose-built tool box and securely fix it in the vehicle.
- Install a good vehicle alarm.
- Connect tool lock boxes to the alarm system.
- Remove tools from the vehicle during evenings/weekends.
- Lock vehicles on worksites when unattended.
- Consider installing dark tinted window film to keep tools out of sight.

If possible, avoid parking your vehicle on the street at night.

Insurance Council of New Zealand

WHAT TO DO WHEN THERE'S AN ACCIDENT ON SITE

The building industry has some of the highest rates of serious injury and ACC claims. What should you do if there is an accident on your worksite?

First up, certain rules apply to all construction sites to help cope with accidents. Regulations under the Health and Safety at Work Act say that the person in charge of a site must ensure that:

- there is adequate and accessible first aid equipment on site
- there are an adequate number of workers on site who are trained in first aid or workers have access to other people trained to give first aid.

When someone is injured, the first thing is to assess whether to call 111 for an ambulance. An ambulance should always be called for serious deep cuts, serious burns, loss of consciousness, a metal or wood fragment entering the eye, a broken bone or spinal or head injury or serious breathing difficulties. If in doubt, call 111.

Don't try to take someone to hospital yourself – use the ambulance service. For a start, you or whoever is driving may be stressed and take risks on the road, paramedics in the ambulance may be able to start treatment straight away and ambulance drivers know where to go.

Notifiable injuries

The Health and Safety at Work Act says that WorkSafe must be notified when certain work-related events occur. This can be done by calling 0800 030 040 or going online to worksafe.govt.nz/notify-worksafe.

A notifiable event is when work leads to:

- a death – if someone has been killed at work, you must notify WorkSafe immediately
- notifiable illness or injury – one that requires immediate treatment other than just first aid [see the list above of when an ambulance should be called for examples]
- a notifiable incident – where someone has “a serious or immediate risk to their health and safety because of an unplanned or uncontrolled work incident”.

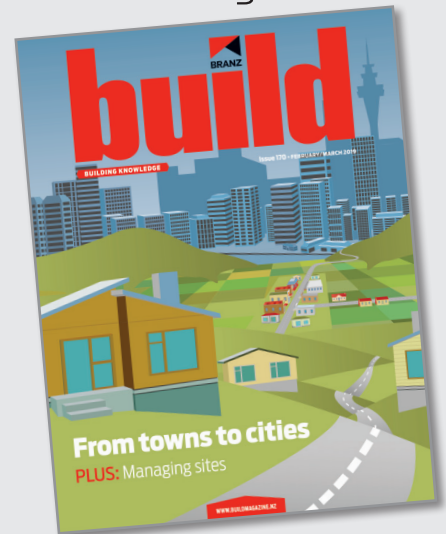
If you do not comply with the laws around site safety, your site can be closed down.



DKR 2019

build

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Competition

Here is a tool



What is it?

WIN!



A Milwaukee 18v cordless hammer drill worth \$400!

This brilliant cordless hammer drill features a POWERSTATE™ brushless motor. Faster drilling speed, increased productivity, less fatigue. [Prize is bare tool.]

The prize is provided courtesy of The ToolShed. All you need to do is tell us the name of the mystery tool at the top of the page.

Email your answer to buildersmate@branz.co.nz. Put "February Competition" in the subject line. The message should include your answer, your name, postal address and phone number. 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 first correct entry drawn at 9 am on Friday 15 March 2019. Details will be posted on the BRANZ Ltd website (www.branz.nz) and in the next edition of **Builder's Mate** due out on 1 April 2019.

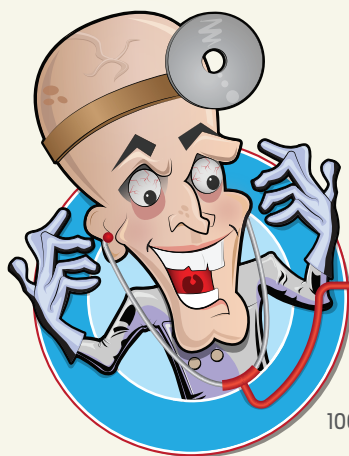


Winner of **Builder's Mate 93**, was Derek Kosteljik of Torbay. Derek wins a ToolShed rail saw. The mystery tool was a cordless band saw.

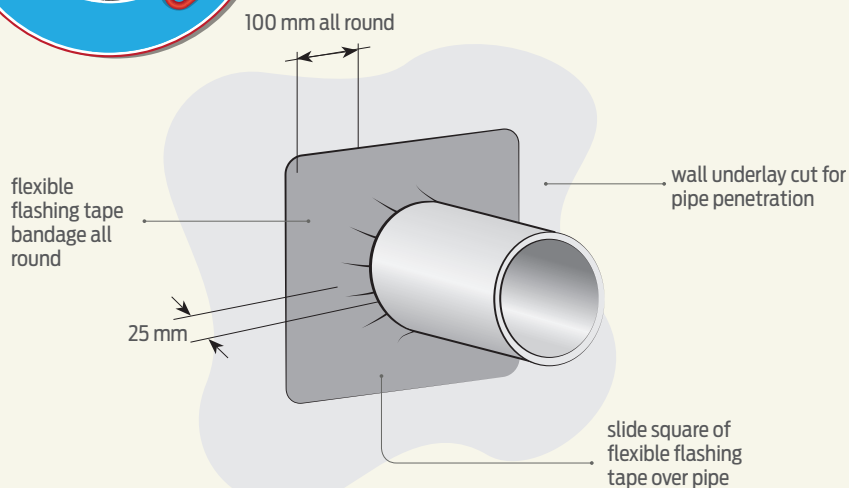
Pictured October winner Dave Doidge with his prize, a Hikoki circular saw.



Terms and conditions: Entry is open to all New Zealand residents except employees and immediate families of BRANZ and The ToolShed shops. The competition will close at 9 am on Friday 15 March 2019. The prize is not transferable for cash. The judge's decision is final. No correspondence will be entered into.



DR DETAIL



Penetration prepared using flashing tape, as described in E2/AS1.

Wall penetrations

This is a common penetration detail with cavity walls. The pipe slopes slightly downwards to the outside. Before installing the cladding, seal the pipe to the wall underlay with flexible flashing tape for enhanced weathertightness.



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