

BUILDER'S MATE

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New ways of putting in WINDOWS

Big windows are a common feature of many new houses. The large size, together with the use of double glazing in most parts of the country, means that windows are getting heavier.

As a result, they are more likely to be supplied to site just as aluminium frames without the glass, to minimise the weight and make them easier to lift. Frames that are unglazed need to be handled more carefully so that the corner seals are not compromised as a result of twisting or racking the frame.

There are several key installation changes for aluminium windows in the latest Acceptable Solution E2/AS1.

The first requirement for all cavity cladding systems is the need to fix aluminium support bars to the sill trimmer for:

- windows wider than 600 mm
- all aluminium doors regardless of width.

The photograph on page 2 shows a support bar attached to a sill trimmer. >



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INDUSTRY NEWS

Over 10,000 licensed

There are now over 10,000 licensed building practitioners (LBPs).

From 1 March 2012, only LBPs will be permitted to carry out or supervise building work which is structural and/or affects weathertightness of a home.

New House Building Guide published

A new edition of BRANZ's flagship book, the *House Building Guide*, has just been launched.

The book gives practical guidance for good timber-framed house building. The latest edition includes the Standards and Building Code changes over 2011, including the new NZS 3604 *Timber-framed buildings*, and the new Acceptable Solutions for weathertightness, E2/AS1, and durability, B2/AS1.

There are now 250 drawings in the book, all in colour and the vast majority in 3D.

HAMMER 'N' NAILS





Support bar fixed to a sill trimmer under an aluminium window, cavity cladding.

The second requirement for aluminium windows and doors is to have a back soaker installed at the jamb sill junctions when the frame is manufactured. The aim of the soaker is to capture any water that may enter through the mitred corner joint and drain it to the outside.

You need to allow sufficient tolerance when having windows site-measured to ensure the window will fit

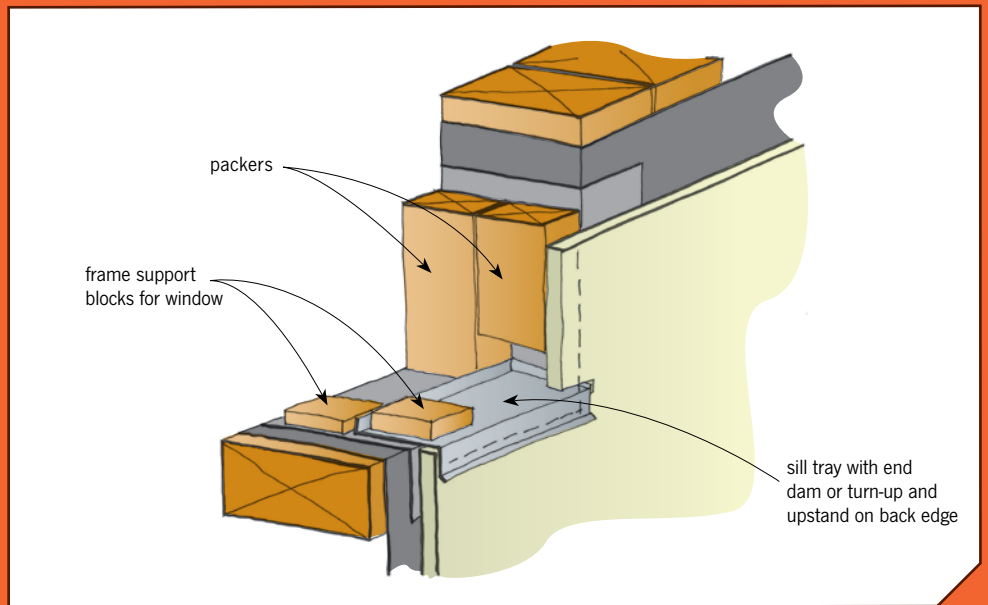


Figure 1. Sill detail for aluminium window with direct-fixed cladding.

into the rough opening with the 5-10 mm gap for the air seal after the flashing tape and soakers are installed.

Window sill tray update

The sill tray requirements and the jamb detail for aluminium windows installed into a direct-fixed cladding have also changed in the latest E2/AS1.

The Acceptable Solution now allows flat sill trays, provided:

- the window is supported by frame support blocks sitting on the flashing and packers under the timber reveal (Figure 1)
- the sill tray has an end dam or turn up and an 8 mm min. upstand along the back edge.

The jamb detail now incorporates two 45 x 20 mm vertical packers fixed to the face of the doubling or trimming stud. The one on the inside is fitted tightly between the lintel and the sill trimmer, and provides support to the lining material. The outer batten stops short of the sill flashing.

These packers:

- allow the flashing to be fitted full width of the sill trimmer without the need to notch studs
- provide support to the edge of the cladding. The cladding needs to project 20 mm past the doubling or trimming stud so that sufficient window flange cover will be achieved.

There's more information in the October Guideline, free on our website www.branz.co.nz.

Dribblings from the Old Geezer



Recently I have had the good fortune to have a couple of mates come and do building work with me at our demesne.

The first mate brought his van full of tools, ladders, planks and a big tent to set up in. With the right tools for the job, work went enjoyably well, with me mostly in a spectator's role.

The second mate to visit came by motorbike, so my motley collection of DIY and garage sale tools were brought into play. I had already learnt that my dad's old wooden level had a wayward bubble, and embarrassingly the little 600mm plastic one would have to do. This didn't matter too much as it was only a shed being constructed.

Not owning a drop-saw, I cut framing etc using a square but have sometimes been disappointed in the accuracy achieved. You guessed it – just like the level not being level, my square isn't square. At the goading of Builder Number Two it was off to the builders' merchant for a 'proper' adjustable saw guide square. Problem solved ... 'Yeah right!' Subsequently this new toy was not found to be much better.

All of this is getting to the point of this dribbling. Crap tools will usually produce crap results, so spend wisely and remember that the pain of paying is only temporary, while the enjoyment of owning and using quality tools is lasting.

One final lesson from my recent experiences – "Don't ever leave your hammer on the top of a step ladder."

Des Molloy

At a glance

Concrete slab reinforcing

B1/AS1 amendment 11 (August 2011) modifications to NZS 3604 (2011) required the deletion of Figures 7.13 (A), Figure 7.14 (A), Figure 7.15 (A), & Figure 7.16 (A) from the Standard. This means that foundation walls, as covered by Section 7 of the Standard, now require 2 x D12 bars in the wall footing.

What was that?

Did you know that loud noise can affect your eyesight, your heart, even your sense of balance?

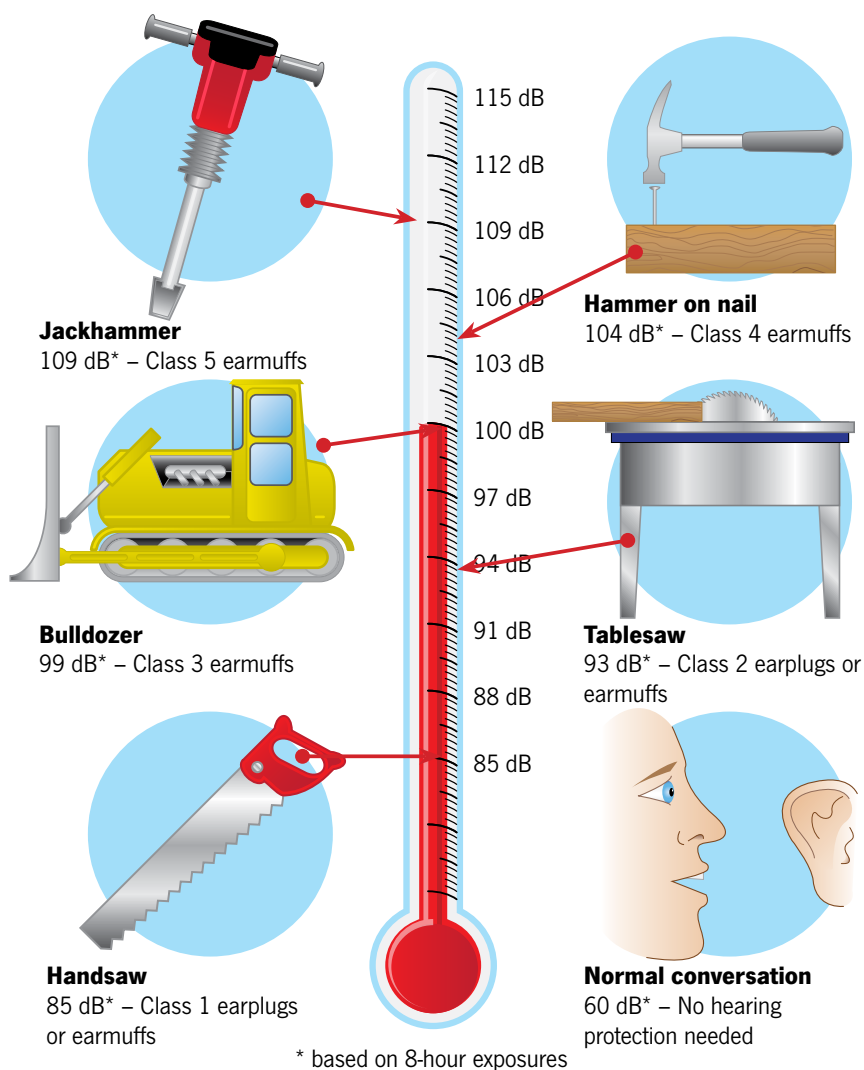
Everyone knows someone who has to crank up the TV or radio to be able to hear it properly. Permanent hearing loss is a real problem for thousands of people. But there are other reasons to protect your ears. Too much noise can:

- affect your sense of balance, making you feel dizzy
- lead to ringing in the ears, which in turn can cause difficulties in concentration or sleep
- cause stress, which can lead to tiredness, irritability and headaches
- raise blood pressure, putting strain on your heart
- affect your eyes, causing loss of clarity, colour perception and night vision. Close work becomes difficult because noise causes your pupils to dilate
- increase the risk of incidents and injuries if you can't hear approaching danger or warnings.

Wearing earmuffs or earplugs is the easiest solution. But there are other things you can do to protect yourself and others on the job:

- Lay out the site to separate noisy activities from quieter ones. For example, put compressors, pumps and generators away from the work to be carried out
- Schedule noisy activities when few other workers are nearby
- Reduce noise where possible, for example by using vibration insulation mounting
- Swap between noisy and quiet jobs
- Talk about noise control measures and personal hearing protection at tool box meetings
- Try not to work in corners – this amplifies noise levels from machinery.

Did you know that sound energy doubles every 3 decibels? A bulldozer that makes 99 decibels is actually four times louder than a bench saw that makes 93 decibels.



Compiled from ACC data.

build



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COMPETITION Win!



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The prize is provided courtesy of The Tool Shed.

All you need to do to win is tell us the name of the mystery tool (above right).

Email your answer to buildersmate@branz.co.nz. Put "December 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 6 January 2012. 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 February 2012.

Terms and conditions:

Entry is open to all New Zealand residents except employees and immediate families of BRANZ and The Tool Shed shops. The competition will close on Friday 6 January 2012. The prize is not transferable for cash. The judge's decision is final. No correspondence will be entered into.



Here's a tool
What is it?



The winner of the BM 50 competition was Mark Smith of Rotorua. The mystery tool was a a log splitter, and the prize was a De Walt 18V XR Li-Ion compact drill/driver.



PICTURED: Bill Philpott of the ToolShed in Whangarei presents a Makita circular saw to Mike Broeshart, winner of the BM 49 competition.

BLOKES on the job

RICHARD LEACOCK

Working on the BRANZ rebuild



Favourite tool

Makita drill.

Favourite tip

Work smarter, not harder.

MICHAEL STRILING

Working on the BRANZ rebuild



Favourite tool

Impact driver.

Favourite tip

Safety first.

CRAIG GRANT

Working on the BRANZ rebuild



Favourite tool

Concertina pot riveter.

Favourite tip

The boss is always right.

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Standards referred to can be purchased from Standards New Zealand.
Tel: 04 498 5991 or www.standards.co.nz.

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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.