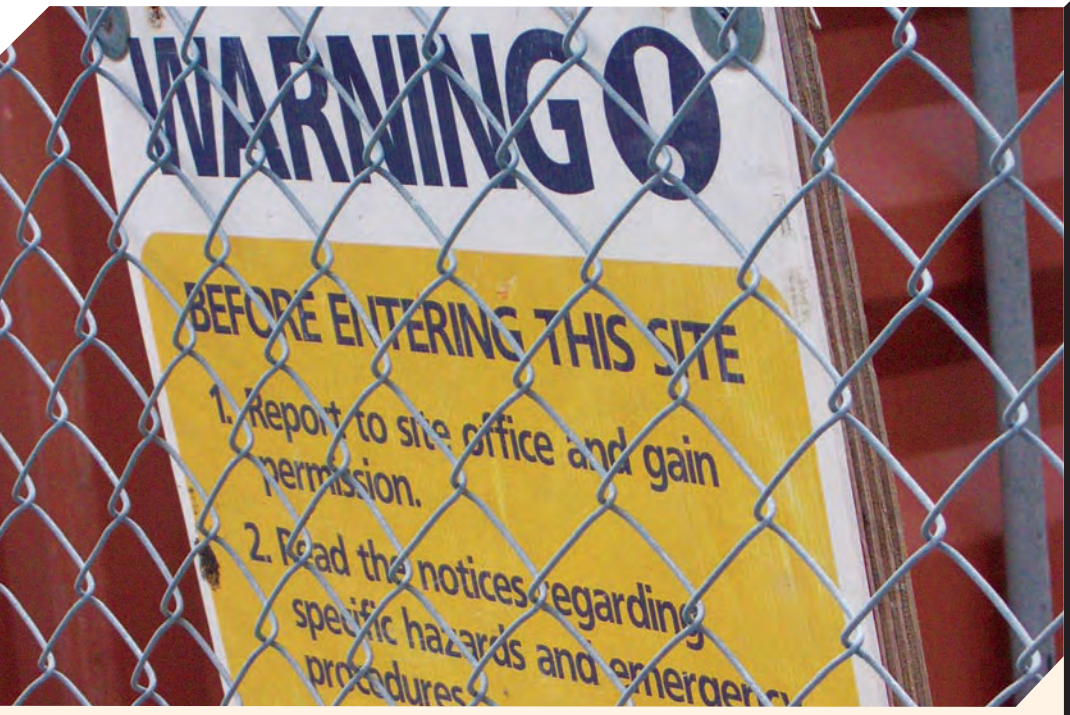
FREE TO ALL BUILDERS

BRANZ

BUILDER'S MATE

ISSUE 39 | December 2009



PLANNING FOR SAFETY

What makes a safe, well-organised and successful site? Finding a practical, efficient and safe way of doing things and then repeating it each time is the key.

A work plan is an essential part of running a safe site and goes hand in hand with a site-specific health and safety plan. A work plan identifies each step of the project and each potential hazard and lets you check your progress.

The plan should identify what the project is going to produce, and it can contain detailed plans for tasks that may be more difficult or critical to do right. Writing it down helps teams 'build it in their heads'.

Questions a work plan should answer:

- What is the task or building element being planned?
- How will it be done?
- How long will it take?
- Who will do it?

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INDUSTRY NEWS

Act cuts red tape

One of the provisions of the Building Amendment Act 2009, which came into force on 1 August, streamlines processes for making minor changes to buildings. Minor variations to consented plans will be able to be made quickly and easily during construction so, in most cases, builders and homeowners won't have to go back through the consent amendment process for the change to be authorised.

Individual weathertight solutions details

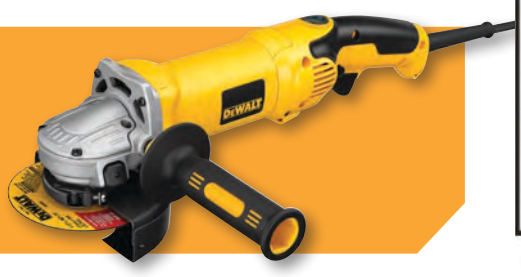
Individual weathertight solutions details are now available for download from www.branz.co.nz/WSD. And while you're on the website, check out www.branz.co.nz/builders_mate for any back issues you might have missed.

Inside:

Win!

A DeWALT D28065-XE 125 mm Angle Grinder

Worth $305!



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- What are possible hazards?
- Are the right resources on site?
- Is the required safety equipment available, in good working order, and are the people who will use it appropriately trained?
- What work must be done before the activity?
- What other work depends on the activity?
- Are specialists subcontractors needed?
- Are there any environmental considerations?
- Does the health and safety plan cover all the activities? Should new ones be added?

It's a good idea to share the plan with all staff, discuss alternatives, reach agreement, have everybody involved sign the plan and then do it exactly as written up. This is very important with tasks or methods that are new to staff.

Your site should also have regular toolbox meetings to check you are all still on track and no new hazards have been identified. A different staff member could do a safety walk around each week immediately before the toolbox meeting and report on anything they see.

It's very important to report and talk about any 'near misses' – they're a great opportunity to improve work habits and safety regimes. You could also talk about a relevant safety topic or have a refresher demonstration of the correct use of a particular tool, or discuss and learn from examples of failure highlighted in industry safety magazines.

And remember that almost all sites and contracts have circumstances specific to them, so all new work also requires site-specific safety planning.

AT A GLANCE

Laying timber strip flooring

- Make sure the building exterior (roof cladding, wall cladding, doors and windows) has been completed and that it is weathertight.
- Check that the concrete floor slab and any framing timbers laid as flooring support are at the correct moisture content (70% maximum RH for concrete measured with a flooring hygrometer).
- Boards should be conditioned in the space for at least 72 hours.
- Check the moisture content of the timber flooring with a calibrated moisture meter before laying to ensure that it is within the specified range.
- Handle boards carefully to prevent damage, particularly to the tongues and grooves.
- Leave an 8–10 mm gap around the perimeter of the floor to accommodate movement – this can be covered by skirting boards.
- Install movement control joints within the floor area to accommodate movement where the floor width exceeds 9 m, or at 9 m maximum centres for strip flooring – fill joints with either compressible cork or a sealant formulated for use with timber flooring.

Dribblings from the Old Geezer

Recently, I was fretting about how I would refix a sign on our backpackers. Removing the partly damaged old sign after a storm had been awkward. I'd been struggling, one-handed, up a folded-out trestle ladder. I knew I needed more height and was almost resigned to backing up the ute and putting the ladder in the tray to get it. Fortunately, I then read the ACC piece in a national newspaper featuring a workmate from the last project I had worked on in Wellington. Working at home, Roy (a vastly experienced foreman/supervisor) had done almost everything right, working from a scaffold to paint. Then he thought he would finish the work from a shelf or some such. He fell and badly damaged his knee, resulting in a year off work and a permanent minor disability. I can picture the moment. We have all had them when a risky task fails. "I knew that would happen!" you curse, as you fall or clasp your gashed knuckle. No one sets out to fall or cut themselves, but it happens, which is why workplaces have safety rules. Sometimes we let ourselves down by not having good safety rules at home. Thanks, Roy. I went to town and hired a scaffold and did the job safely. A good feeling.

Des Molloy

STEP BY STEP TYING DOWN

You've seen the older delivery drivers doing it dozens of times and now you can learn to do that quick-release truckies' knot for those occasions when you don't have a ratchet tie-down on hand. (You'll need to adapt these if you're left-handed.)

Having secured one end of the rope going over your load, pull the rope tight with your left hand and form a loop with your right.

Place the loop on top of the rope coming across from the load.

Take the rope in your left hand around the loop that was placed across the rope in step 2.

Take the rope around the loop a second time above the first, keeping pressure on the 'knot'.

You have now formed a second loop.

Take the rope's free end down to your tie-off point and back through your second loop for pulling down tight. Tie off appropriately.

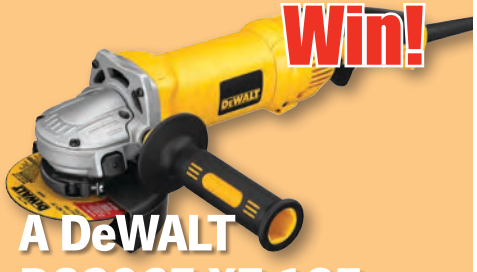
Common timber treatments

Here's a quick guide to the current range of timber treatments available and where they can be used.

Hazard class	Definition	Comment	Treatment options
Low hazard (untreated)	Where there is no risk of dampness or insect attack.	Production, storage, delivery and construction and in-use conditions where no risk of fungal or borer attack exists. Internal use only, not exposed to ground atmosphere or conditions that would allow the in-use moisture content to exceed 18% at any time.	High temperature kiln-dried
H1.1	Where there is no risk of dampness.	Production, storage, delivery and construction and in-use conditions where no risk of fungal attack exists but protection against borer is required. Internal use only, not exposed to ground atmosphere or conditions that would allow the in-use moisture content to exceed 18% at any time.	Boron, CCA, LOSP
H1.2	Where there is moderate risk of dampness or wetting.	Exposure to weather in production, storage, delivery and construction must be not more than 8 weeks during construction. Internal use only in conditions that would not allow the in-use moisture content to exceed 20% at any time.	Boron, CCA, LOSP
H3.1	External cladding and exterior trim use requiring a 15-year durability.	Primed on all faces (including all mitred corners and other cut ends and bore holes) before fixing and finished with a 3-coat paint system (stain finishes are not acceptable).	CCA, LOSP , ACQ, CuAz, boron (painted cladding only)
	Internal use in higher-risk framing situations requiring a 50-year durability.	Protected from direct wetting but at risk if a leak occurs.	CCA, LOSP, ACQ, CuAz
H3.2	External use.	Use uncoated or clear finished, may not be suitable for 50-year durability where continually damp.	CCA, LOSP, ACQ, CuAz
H4	In contact with ground or concrete.	Use in structural applications such as deck framing, retaining walls and fences.	CCA, ACQ, CuAz
H5	In contact with ground or concrete.	Use in critical structural applications such as house piles and poles.	CCA, ACQ, CuAz

See BRANZ Bulletin 493 *Timber treatment* for more information on the requirements for timber durability and the preservative options available, primarily focusing on radiata pine.

COMPETITION



A DeWALT D28065-XE 125 mm Angle Grinder Worth $305!

This grinder has an anti-vibration side handle to improve user comfort, and the new guard design allows guard fitting, adjustment or removal without the use of tools, for increased flexibility.

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).

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 39, Mystery Tool Competition, FREEPOST BRANZ, Private Bag 50 908, Porirua City 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 first correct entry drawn at 9 am on Friday 8 January 2010. Details will be posted on the BRANZ Ltd website (www.branz.co.nz/builders_mate) and in the next edition of *Builder's Mate* due out on 1 February 2010.

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 8 January 2010. The prize is not transferable for cash. The judge's decision is final. No correspondence will be entered into.

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Here's a close up of part of a tool.
What is it?

The Tool Shed

BUILDER'S MATE WINNERS

The winner of the BM 38 competition was Charles Milne from Culverden. The mystery tool was bolt cutters, and the prize was a DeWALT DC308K-XE 36 Volt Jig Saw.

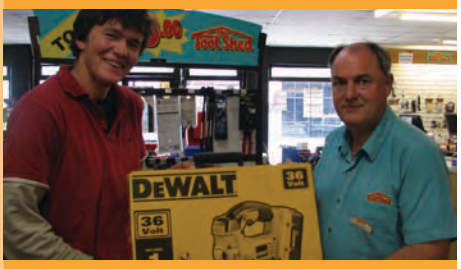


Photo: BM 38 competition winner Charles Milne receives his prize from Richard Reynolds at The Tool Shed Christchurch.

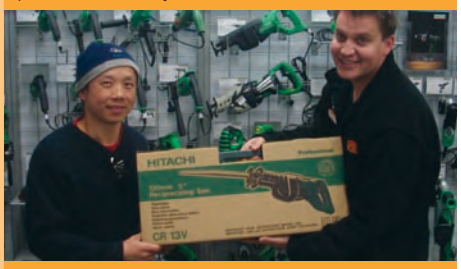
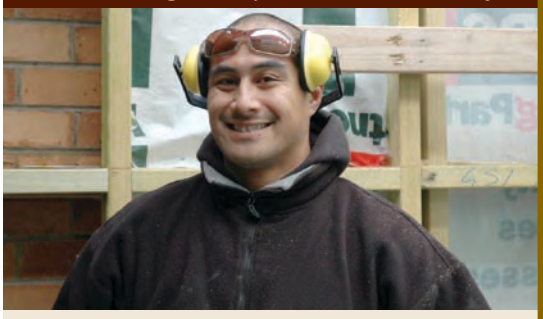


Photo: The prize for the BM 37 competition being presented at The Tool Shed Hamilton. Bee Chui Saw won a Hitachi CR13V Sabre Saw.

BLOKES on the job

MARCELLUS TOLEAFOA

Builder working on a major renovation in Herne Bay

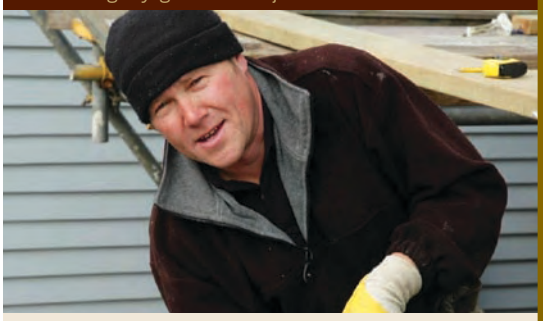


Favourite tool
Sabre saw.

Favourite tip
Wear safety glasses.

CHRIS PICARD

Installing skylights on a major renovation in Westmere

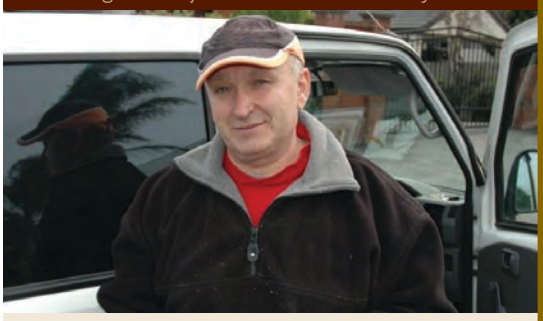


Favourite tool
Power nibbler.

Favourite tip
When installing skylights, get a specialist installer.

KIROL KIRILOV

Working on a major renovation in Herne Bay



Favourite tool
Sledge hammer.

Favourite tip
Read BRANZ information (and he wasn't prompted to say this!).

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.

www.branz.co.nz
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