

Builder's MATE



FREE TO ALL BUILDERS

July 2006

Issue 18



A site for sore eyes

A big challenge on new projects is often the site planning. Where will you put your site office, delivered material and the toilet? Can they stay there for the whole project? Do you need a temporary power supply and where will it be located? Three phase or single phase? Will subbies need their own space? Will materials need special handling or storage or protection from rain?

Bigger projects may include this planning in the tender submission but sadly, many smaller residential projects appear to be planned with little forethought. Most builders have a way of working that suits them but often this is not formalised or easily adapted. It's better to develop a checklist before the site is established and to make regular checks during construction.

A shipping container may be fine for storing tools and some materials. Other needs include a well-lit area for the plan table: keeping your contract documents legible and updated is vital. Don't mix a smoko area with the planning area because the two activities are not compatible. There should always be a clean area for meetings between building officials, the designer and construction foreman.

Health and safety issues can often lead to efficiency and efficiency leads to quality.

Your work plan could include these checks:

- Are there arrangements for visitors and new workers?

(Continued on p2)



Industry News

Illness and injury cost more

Workplace injury and disease costs could be four times higher than previously thought, says the National Occupational Health and Safety Advisory Committee. It estimates a total cost of \$20.9 billion a year: \$4.9 billion in financial costs and \$16 billion in the costs of suffering and premature death. It estimates that only 2% of this is compensated by government bodies such as ACC. Further information: www.nohsac.govt.nz.

Apprentice of the year

Carpentry apprentices aged 25 years or younger have until July 31 to enter the Registered Master Builders / Carpenters Apprentice of the Year competition. The contest is being run in nine regions this year, from Auckland to the Southern South Island. Further information: www.bcito.org.nz or your local Registered Master Builders Association office.

HAMMER 'N' NAILS



Inside:

Win! a DeWalt 12volt 13 mm cordless drill worth over \$400!



Proper storage makes work more efficient.

- Can everyone reach their work area safely?
- Are toilets and washing facilities suitable and easily serviced?
- Is the site tidy and are materials stored safely?
- Is waste collected and disposed of properly?
- Is safe lighting provided for work in the dark or poor light?
- Will any deliveries need specialised cranes, and where will the crane park?
- Is there room for delivery trucks with hoists to operate?
- Will the ground support deliveries to the spot you want them?
- Is a hazardous goods store needed?
- Is there a construction programme?
- Does the site staff have access to the regulatory documents?
- Is the first aid kit properly stocked?



A tidy up here will help.

Need a hand? If you've got a building problem that needs fixing, get on the blower to Eddie Bruce at BRANZ advisory helpline!

Builders call 0800 80 80 85. Home owners call 0900 5 90 90

(0900 calls cost \$1.99 per minute, plus GST)

Next issue: Concrete: additives and admixtures, techniques and tips.

Builder's Mate 19 out 1 September 2006. Don't miss it!

Sharpening and setting a cross-cut hand saw

Last issue we showed you how to top and shape your saw. Now we set and sharpen it. If you set first, you may find that the teeth bend back slightly during sharpening. Setting the tool a half size bigger will compensate. Sharpening first creates the risk of damaging the teeth when setting. It's your choice.



A setting tool has an anvil and a punch.



Lining up the punch with the middle of the tooth and squeezing will correctly bend only the top third. Warm the saw a little if it is cold or if you know the saw has brittle teeth.



Arrange the saw so it is held about 3 mm above your clamp so it won't vibrate and screech as you file.



With a 150 mm triangular file, file at a 45° angle to the blade with the handle of the file lowered a little to about 80°. Go down one side of the saw, not filing away more than half of the tooth's top. Going along the second side will make the tooth into a point.



Rub a fine oilstone along each face of the saw to remove any burrs from filing.

How not to cup weatherboards

In a perfect world, weatherboards would stay straight when you nail them up. In the real world they don't unless a few precautions are taken.

Timber always contains moisture. The amount varies with changes in temperature and humidity, causing the timber to shrink or swell. This can cause cracking, distortion, cupping, opening of joints and laps, and stress on surface coatings.

Get timber cladding delivered just before it is needed. Unload it carefully and place it on timber dunnage clear of the ground. Keep it protected from the weather. Unusually dry timber (less than 14% moisture) may need time to absorb moisture from the surroundings (equilibrate) before you can use it.

Timber which is installed too dry will take on water and swell.

When installing weatherboards, the moisture content must be near to the average expected in service. In most of New Zealand this is about 16%. If enough expansion gaps aren't provided and the moisture content is too low, cupping can result, as shown in Figure 1. Table 1 lists the expected shrinkage or expansion rates for an ex 200 mm weatherboard of various timber species.

End grain absorbs water or dries out faster than face grain, so corners, mitres, openings and running joints must be well sealed with paint or wax.



Figure 1: The cause of these badly cupped weatherboards can be seen in the lack of adequate expansion gaps at the top of each board.

Table 1: Typical moisture-change movement in timber weatherboards (assuming a 6% change in moisture in a 200 mm board).

Shrinkage or expansion (mm)		
Species	Radial (quarter sawn)	Tangential (flat sawn)
Radiata pine	1.4 mm	2.6 mm
Macrocarpa	1.2 mm	2.1 mm
Douglas fir	1.9 mm	3.3 mm
Larch	1.3 mm	3.3 mm
Western red cedar	1.5 mm	2.8 mm



Want to know more? Get BUILD magazine. Published every two months, BUILD is THE industry magazine for building-related issues. Subscriptions cost \$54. FREE to building company owners and sole building traders. visit www.branz.co.nz to find out more.



Dribblings from the old geezer

I am not a naturally tidy person and I don't always admire those who are. But over the years I have seen enough examples of the benefits of tidiness to recognize that in the construction industry, tidiness is a virtue. I first suspected it when as a young contracts manager I administered several small sites. One was bustling with activities and all go, go, go. It was a minefield to walk around with off-cuts everywhere, but hey, that was a sign of how much was happening. I was always impressed at how hard the site was being driven.

Another site had a very conservative foreman who always seemed to have the labourers doing nothing but tidying up. There was never any urgency. It took me a while to realise that the methodical ways of the tidy foreman were producing a quicker and better result. His site was always immaculate and work was always being done efficiently. Each worker had a clear workspace. Their leads were never snagged. Walkways were always clear and the site always felt safe.

The frenetic pace of the first site almost left you breathless yet it didn't produce the results that the second did. This probably is a good example of the old adage 'Make haste slowly'.

Des Molloy, BRANZ Ltd Presenter

Product Information

Evadry Saddle Flashing

The Evadry Saddle Flashing is a moulded, one piece flashing for weatherproofing the junction where a timber joist cantilevers through from inside the building structure to the outside.

This situation will arise with cantilevered timber decks. For more information: www.evadry.co.nz.



win!

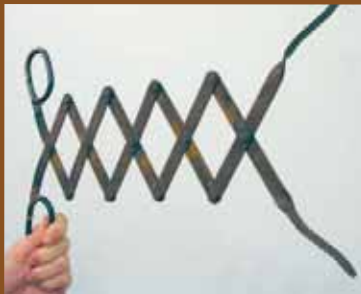
A DeWalt 12 Volt 13 mm cordless drill worth over \$400!



This DeWalt cordless drill driver has 240 watts output power, increased run time and consistent all-round pressure. The 13 mm ratcheting lock chuck offers greater tightening force and reduced slippage. The drill includes reverse and has an all-metal planetary gearbox.

The prize is provided courtesy of DeWalt and The Tool Shed.

We don't know what this tool was used for - you can be imaginative in your suggestions!



Terms and conditions: Entry is open to all New Zealand residents except employees and immediate families of BRANZ Ltd, BRANZ Inc, BRANZ Pty and The Tool Shed shops. The competition will close on Friday 4 August 2006. The prize is not transferable for cash. The judge's decision is final. No correspondence will be entered into. BRANZ Ltd may, from time to time, send you information about our products. You can contact us at any time if you do not wish to receive this information.

All you need to win is tell us what you think the old mystery tool below could be used for.

Send us your suggestion (one entry per entrant please) plus your name and address on the back of an envelope and post it (you don't need a stamp) to: Builder's Mate 18, Mystery Tool Competition, FREEPOST BRANZ, Private Bag 50908, Porirua City.

Don't forget to tell us where you picked up your copy of **Builder's Mate**! The winner will be selected at 9 am on Friday 4 August 2006. 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 September 2006.

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Blockes on the job



Jesse Hall, an Aucklander at a Weltec block course, having just scored 100% for curved block wall construction.

Favourite tool: His 1200 level.

Favourite tip: If it is not easy, you're not doing it right.



Matt Pattison, an apprentice working in Whitby.

Favourite tool: DeWalt drywall/deck screw gun.

Favourite tip: Make sure you load the boss's van right.



Wayne Huxford, finishing a development in Seatoun.

Favourite tool: Makita 300mm compound mitre cut-off saw.

Favourite tip: Keep a tidy site.

Builder's Mate winner!



The winner of the BM 17 competition is Jim Harrington of Cromwell, who correctly identified the tool as a roofing square, used for setting the angles of roofing members. Jim wins a builder's Pentax auto level worth over \$500.

Pictured: Winner of the BM 16 competition Neil Cameron, receiving his Bosch cordless drill from Karl Fitzgerald at the Tool Shed, Thames.

NEW RELEASE

GOOD PRACTICE GUIDE

Timber Cladding

2nd edition

Timber Cladding Good Practice Guide

GOOD PRACTICE GUIDE

Have you considered carefully how you will achieve weathertight cladding solutions when traditional materials are being employed?

This completely revised and updated 2nd edition provides a comprehensive overview of the issues to be addressed when using timber cladding.

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Editor: Des Molloy
desmolloy@branz.co.nz



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

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.