

# Builder's



FREE TO ALL BUILDERS

# MATE

July 2004  
Issue 6

A synthetic wrap's translucency enables the openings to be kept covered which helps keep the water out of the building until the cladding is on.



## It's a wrap

There are several to choose from, but you must know which one is right for your job

Our light timber constructions must have a wrap or underlay under the wall cladding.

This wrap or underlay has traditionally been black bitumen-saturated kraft paper. Although the black papers are still used, synthetic wraps are more popular nowadays.

The synthetic wall wraps are light, strong and 2.7 m wide. However, they're not always a direct replacement for the traditional building papers. Although all the wraps available are vapour permeable, not all are absorbent.

### Easy to identify

Synthetic absorbent wraps are easy to identify because they're generally thicker, softer, and don't make a noise when they flap in the breeze. They can be used behind all wall claddings, but not as a roof underlay or wind barrier.

The non-absorbent wraps are thin and rattle when the wind blows. Some are like extremely tough rip-proof paper; others are like a thin plastic tarpaulin. These non-absorbent wraps can only be used directly behind absorbent claddings, such as brickwork, fibre-cement board, timber weatherboards or stucco.

*Continued on p2*

## Industry News

### Step in the right direction

Slippery surfaces are always a safety concern. Tredgrip is a water-based paint-on surface cover that'll heighten their safety factor. It can be applied to concrete, timber, steel aluminium, fibreglass, butyl rubber and most previously painted surfaces, and can last for between five and 10 years, indoors and out.

Because it's a flexible film rather than a rigid coating, it moves with the substrate and will bridge or fill hairline cracks in concrete. Available in a range of colours. For info: Jacobsen Engineering 09 818 9215.

### It's a gas...

Welders and plumbers may benefit from BOC's new PortaPack gas welding and cutting kit. The carrycase houses oxygen and acetylene cylinders along with all the welding and cutting equipment and accessories. It weighs 15kgs and provides continuous welding for up to three hours, and continuous cutting for up to half an hour. For stockists call 09-818 9215.

*Inside: Win a Bosch angle grinder worth around \$500!*





From p1

### Waxed kraft paper

Also on the market is a waxed kraft paper that's very stiff and strong. It is white on one side to reflect the available light. Waxed kraft paper is promoted as being suitable for use behind all wall claddings and under roofs but, like all kraft paper products, it should be covered over as soon as possible.

If you have to choose a wrap for your job, don't just take the one that has your supplier's name on it. Check to see if it's been BRANZ-Appraised and find out what claddings it can be used behind. Most wraps are an Alternative Solution to building code requirements.

### Absorbent synthetic wall wraps

- 2.7 m wide
- quiet in use
- translucent
- strong
- flame-resistant
- can be used behind all claddings

### Non-absorbent synthetic wall wraps

- 2.7 m wide
- can be noisy in use
- translucent
- strong
- flame-resistant
- can be used only behind absorbent claddings
- Alternative Solution to the building code

1. Kraft papers like this fire-retardant one need to be over-clad as soon as possible to avoid damage and deterioration.
2. All wraps should be fixed securely or they will get damaged as they flap in the wind.
3. Taking the wrap around the opening is a good practice. The other thing to note here is that the wrap is folded up until the deck surface turn-up is complete. Correct layering is vital.

### Black kraft paper

- 1.35 m wide
- two weights
- absorbent
- vapour permeable
- lower wet strength, limited durability if wet
- tears easily
- flammable
- can be used behind all claddings
- cost-effective

### Fire-retardant kraft paper

- 1.35 m wide
- two weights
- absorbent
- vapour permeable
- lower wet strength, limited durability if wet
- tears easily
- shrinks when wet
- can be used behind all claddings
- brittle
- resists flame spread

# Sign up and save a life

Construction site signs warn workers and the public of hazardous and dangerous activities. Use the right sign for the right hazard and put it in a prominent place. A sign is worth a thousand words – reading it can save a life. Here's what each sign means.

## MANDATORY

These are blue regulatory signs that indicate an instruction must be carried out. It's against the law not to comply with these



## PROHIBITION

These are red regulatory signs that indicate an action or activity is not permitted. Again, it's against the law not to comply with these



## DANGER

Hazard signs warn of a hazard or hazardous condition that is likely to be life-threatening



## WARNING

Black or yellow signs that warn of a hazard or hazardous condition that is unlikely to be life-threatening



## FIRE

Advises the location of fire alarms and fire-fighting equipment. They are white text or picture on a red background.



## EMERGENCY

Gives direction and location of emergency-related facilities (exits, first aid, safety equipment etc). White on a green background, they specify safe conditions, exits and first-aid facilities.



*Need a hand? If you've got a building problem get on the blower to Eddie at BRANZ Advisory Helpline!*

Builders call **0800 80 80 85** Home owners call **0900 5 90 90**  
(0900 calls cost \$1.99 per minute)

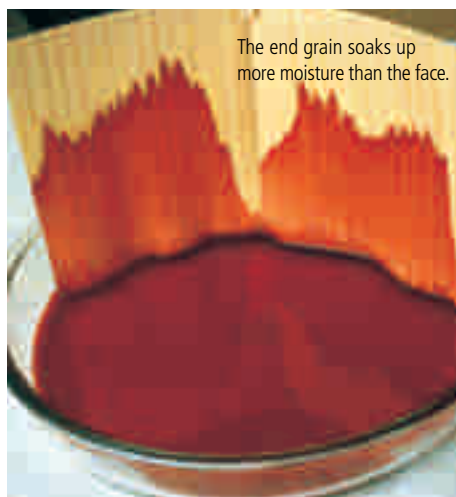
**Next issue** No sweat-decks – Building for safety and strength  
Builder's Mate out September 1. Don't miss it!

For more information on site safety, contact Site Safe New Zealand on 04-499 2509 or visit [www.sitesafe.org.nz](http://www.sitesafe.org.nz)



# An unkind cut

When preservative-treated timber is cut, shaped, planed or drilled and the end grain left exposed, that newly revealed timber may no longer be protected by preservative. Additional treatment will be needed to protect cut ends.



Timber can be a very absorbent material, particularly through end grain, which can soak up moisture at a rate 100 times greater than that of the face.

Naturally durable timber species suffer little from water absorption, apart from the dimensional changes they undergo as they take up and release moisture in the air.

Less-durable species will need some form of preservative treatment if they are to remain durable and if they are likely to be wet in service.

Any cutting of timber (whether from sawing, shaping, planning or drilling) has the potential to expose to moisture any end grain that has not been protected by a penetrating preservative.

## Treat first, seal after

Preservative manufacturers recommend treating any site-cut timber by brushing on preservative, but applying a preservative will not prevent moisture getting in behind a paint finish. If moisture does get in it can cause paint coatings to fail by destroying the coating adhesion.

The durability of applied finishes is improved if the end grain of the timber is sealed before installation, particularly if working with timber species that are naturally absorptive, such as western red cedar and radiata pine.

Western red cedar is particularly likely to have unsightly marks show up under transparent finishes as a result of the movement of water-soluble chemicals within the timber.

To maximise timber and finish-coating durability, a two-stage process is best. First, a brush application of preservative to the revealed timber, then a separate sealer coat to the end grain.

For the sealer, BRANZ recommends an application of a film-forming product (where a stain or clear finish is specified) or a primer (where a paint finish is specified).



BRANZ recommends preservative to the revealed timber then a separate sealer coat to the end grain.



## Dribblings from the old Beezer

The amount of pride that most builders take in their work never ceases to amaze me.

Some are fastidious about everything while others just have a particular bent. Many of you will have workmates who love working with concrete. For others it is the feel of living timber. Even when working at speed there are those who take such care they are almost gentle. Some waste nothing, some always cut with a square – even after 25 years of practice – some neatly stack everything...

Other trades people are so efficient it is a pleasure just to watch them. They never have to go for more tools, their workspace is never cluttered, they always seem to have just enough materials.

It's easy to overlook the care and skill put into building, and it's as well to remember it sometimes, and give ourselves a pat on the back. Isn't it also good when you discover someone doing something really great and you adopt the practice and so improve your skills, too!

Des Molloy, BRANZ technical writer

## Product information

### Watching paint dry...

How irritating is it when you've painted the ceiling and some clever dick points out the bits you've missed? Well, now's your chance to get even with Dulux new Never Miss. It's a one-coat application ceiling paint that goes on pink (so you can see the bits you have or haven't done) and dries white. Available from all good paint suppliers.



Jenny Shipley impersonator Pinky Agnew fronts the Dulux ad campaign for Never Miss.

*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](http://www.branz.co.nz) to find out more.*

# win! a Bosch angle grinder worth around \$500!

This 2500W industrial-quality Bosch angle grinder weighs just 4.9kgs, has a 9-inch disc 6500 rpm, spindle lock and swivel rear handle – and it could all be yours!



**What is this tool and what is it used for?**

Terms and conditions: Entry is open to all New Zealand residents, except employees and immediate families of BRANZ Ltd., BRANZ Inc, BRANZ Pty, Bosch and The Toolshed. The competition will close at 9am on Monday, August 9 2004. The prize is not transferable. The judge's decision is final. No correspondence will be entered into. BRANZ 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.

The Tool Shed is kindly donating one FREE to the person who can correctly identify the tool pictured below and tell us what it's used for. To be in with a chance to win, just write your answer on the back of an envelope – don't forget to tell us where you picked up your copy of Builder's Mate – and send it to us (you don't need a stamp). It's that simple! Our address is: Builder's Mate, FREEPOST BRANZ, Private Bag 50908, Porirua City.

The prize will go to the first correct entry drawn on Monday August 9 at 9am. Details will be posted on BRANZ website ([www.branz.co.nz](http://www.branz.co.nz)) and in the next edition of Builder's Mate, due out on September 1 – don't miss it!

Winner of our issue 4 competition in March is Allen Laing of Waikanae. Allen identified the six points of a hammer head as 1. Face, 2. Bell, 3. Neck, 4. Eye, 5. Cheek, 6. Pein. Allen wins a Makita belt sander. Congratulations Allen! See next issue for more winners.

## Another winner!

We snapped the winner of Builder's Mate issue 3 competition – Graham Dwight, left in the picture – as he picked up his prize of a Makita plunge router from Jack Kimura of PlaceMakers in Huntly after he correctly identified our mystery tool as a mason's scutch holder. Congratulations Graham!



## FED UP with pay disputes?

Wise up on the adjudication process today

It's said there are only two types of payments in the construction industry – slow payment and no payment! Now the Construction Contracts Act has introduced a new way of dealing with payment disputes.

If you work in the industry, you're bound to be affected by pay disputes at some time. Make sure you're prepared – **buy BRANZ new book TODAY!**

Don't miss this great opportunity to learn a new skill and help others too. This comprehensive guide has more than 100 pages crammed with practical tips and checklists to help you get to grips with adjudication.



**\$45.00**  
Plus \$4 p&p

**If you're thinking of becoming an adjudicator, or just interested in how the process works – this book is for you!**

Order and make payment directly by visiting our website [www.branz.co.nz](http://www.branz.co.nz) or call and place your order with our Customer Service Manager on **0800 80 80 85 press 2.**

Although BRANZ has made every attempt to ensure the accuracy of its information, it provides generic advice only and BRANZ accepts no liability for any loss or damage incurred. Opinions expressed in Builder's Mate do not necessarily reflect the views of BRANZ.

Standards referred to can be purchased from Standards New Zealand. Tel: 04 498 5991 or [www.standards.co.nz](http://www.standards.co.nz).

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## Blokes on the job



**Lance Ramaekers**, BCITO apprentice, building in Whitby

**Favourite tool** Sabre saw because of what it can help you with when you're doing demolition or alterations.

**Favourite tip** Take your time, the faster you go the bigger the mess.



**Philip Leather**, builder from Huntly

**Favourite tool** Gas gun.

**Favourite tip** Don't tell lies and be kind to your mother! But seriously, Phil says 'If you've got a gas gun keep it well maintained and don't get it wet. If it starts to rain, put the gun away.'



**Graham Duncan**, building in Lyall Bay

**Favourite tool** 16-inch Stanley hammer which he's just broken and has been unable to replace.

**Favourite tip** Sawn-off saw stools take a lot of the struggle out of doing ceilings, etc.

Know a bloke on the job? Send his photo, tip and favourite tool to us at BRANZ and you could win \$50 worth of BRANZ books!