

# BUILDER'S MATE

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## What to do with treated timber

**What to do with timber off-cuts has been a problem since we adopted treated timber as our construction material of choice. Before that, off-cuts smaller than dwang-size were eagerly cleared from site by the workers and taken home as firewood. Even the sawdust was scooped up by gardeners.**

When treated timber became the norm, the same process was followed for a start. It took a while for the community at large to learn that treated timber often contained chemicals like copper, chrome and arsenic. That soon put a stop to using the sawdust in gardens or the fish smoker.

So what should you do with timber waste? Here are some guidelines:

- Separate treated from untreated timber, and dispose of them separately.
- Untreated timber can still be used for firewood, reused in construction if it is sound and the right grade, or go to companies which recycle it into such things as boiler fuel or landscaping mulch.



**Win!**

**A Powerbuilt socket set and barbecue**

**together worth over \$299!**

## INDUSTRY NEWS

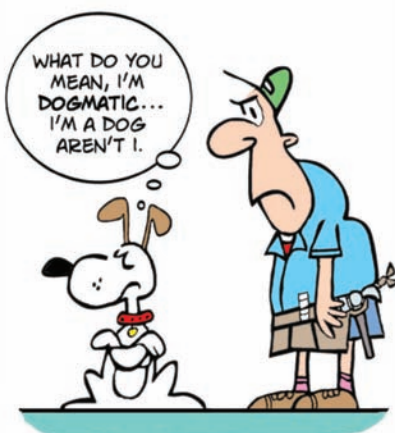
### Does re-roofing require a building consent?

Changes to the Building Act made this year have made it clearer when some work doesn't require a building consent. Roofs are one area affected.

Under the New Zealand Building Code, new roofs are required to last at least 15 years. If a roof fails within that time, it can't automatically be replaced without a building consent. This is because another roof constructed with the same materials and in the same way might also fail to last for the minimum 15 years. Going through the consent process should help make the roof reach the required durability.

But if a roof has lasted longer than 15 years with nothing but routine maintenance, repair work or reroofing is not likely to require building consent if the reroof is done with 'like-for-like' materials.

## HAMMER 'N' NAILS



➤ Continued from previous page

- Treated timber should go to a landfill or refuse station which has regional council consent to receive it. Some local authorities store the timber and make it available for re-use. Others regard treated timber off-cuts as a hazardous waste and use designated landfill areas to dispose of the material. This may run to the use of a lined landfill area, or it might be an area selected because of the unlikely spread of any chemicals leaching out of the timber.
- Be proactive and ask your waste disposal contractor where your waste is going, and ensure you are happy with their answer.
- If large amounts of sawdust or shavings from treated timber are produced on site, that too should be bagged and sent for proper disposal.
- Don't burn treated timber in open fires or log burners or on-site. This is largely because of the contaminants (depending on the specific treatment) such as arsenic which can be released into the atmosphere. Some treatment chemicals may also damage fireboxes.
- Don't use sawdust or shavings from treated timber in animal litter, barbecues or smokers.
- Don't use offcuts to make children's toys.

It's not just manufactured products that have Material Safety Data Sheets (MSDS) – timber does too. Insist that your merchant stocks them and gives you copies. Make sure everyone on the site knows what they contain. They will cover the safe use, storage and disposal of that particular material.



## Making sure brick veneer cavities provide drainage and ventilation

Brick veneer is a porous cladding – water gets through the bricks and mortar joints. Windows are not sealed to the bricks, and water will pass through this junction too. Water can run down the back of the brick in very wet weather.

Initial findings from BRANZ research indicate that effective drainage down the back of the brick cladding and the movement of air behind the cladding are critical to the performance of the veneer cladding.

Here are some ways of achieving that during construction:

- Keep the cavity between the back of the veneer and the wall underlay clear of anything such as lumps of mortar, so that water cannot track across the cavity.

## Dribblings from the Old Geezer



It is natural to make judgements based on what we experience ourselves. So when you are surrounded by good practice, it comes as a shock when you see people letting themselves down by doing silly things. It seems that the boys in the provinces lag the townies here.

The bigger players, the city slickers, all seem to have company protocols and standards that must be kept to. More than ten years ago, the company I worked for sent all their staff for health checks. We didn't have any young workers so the impact was skewed a bit, but it was a shock to find that every worker suffered from industrial deafness, me included.

Now, it is that company's policy (and quite an industry norm in the cities) that workers always have their ear protectors with them. Workers know that they will get a bollocking if they are caught working without them. Contrast this with the smaller provincial areas where constantly I see workers enduring loud noise with no protection. How do we tell them? Do I drag around a part-deaf old foreman to bang heads and shout at them? Hopefully the BCITO is making sure the junior woodchuck learns about the importance of protecting his or her ears and slowly the word will spread, even to the little places...even to the auricle.

**Des Molloy**

**BRANZ**

## ADVISORY HELPLINES

For the building and construction industry

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For the home owner and public enquiries

➤➤ **0900 5 90 90**

Calls cost \$1.99 per minute plus GST

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- Leave out every third or fourth brick in the bottom course, then clean out mortar droppings before the mortar sets.
- Leave every third vertical joint in the bottom course open to allow water out and air in. The slots should be above finished ground level. (Where the first course is less than 75 mm high, the spacing of these weep holes can be decreased to give a ventilation area of 1000 mm<sup>2</sup>/m wall length.)
- Penetrations such as pipes should be installed before the veneer is erected. They must be taped off to the wall underlay.
- Avoid damaging the wall underlay, and immediately repair any tears.
- Slope ties down towards the back of the veneer so that any water behind the wall tracks away from the wall underlay.
- At window sills, make sure that any water that gets on the flexible sill flashing can drip clear of the wall underlay or drain to the outside.
- Allow for ventilation at the top of the veneer wall by leaving a 10 mm gap to the soffit or by omitting the mortar in every third perpend of the top course.
- Tool off mortar joints to make them denser, harder and more durable.

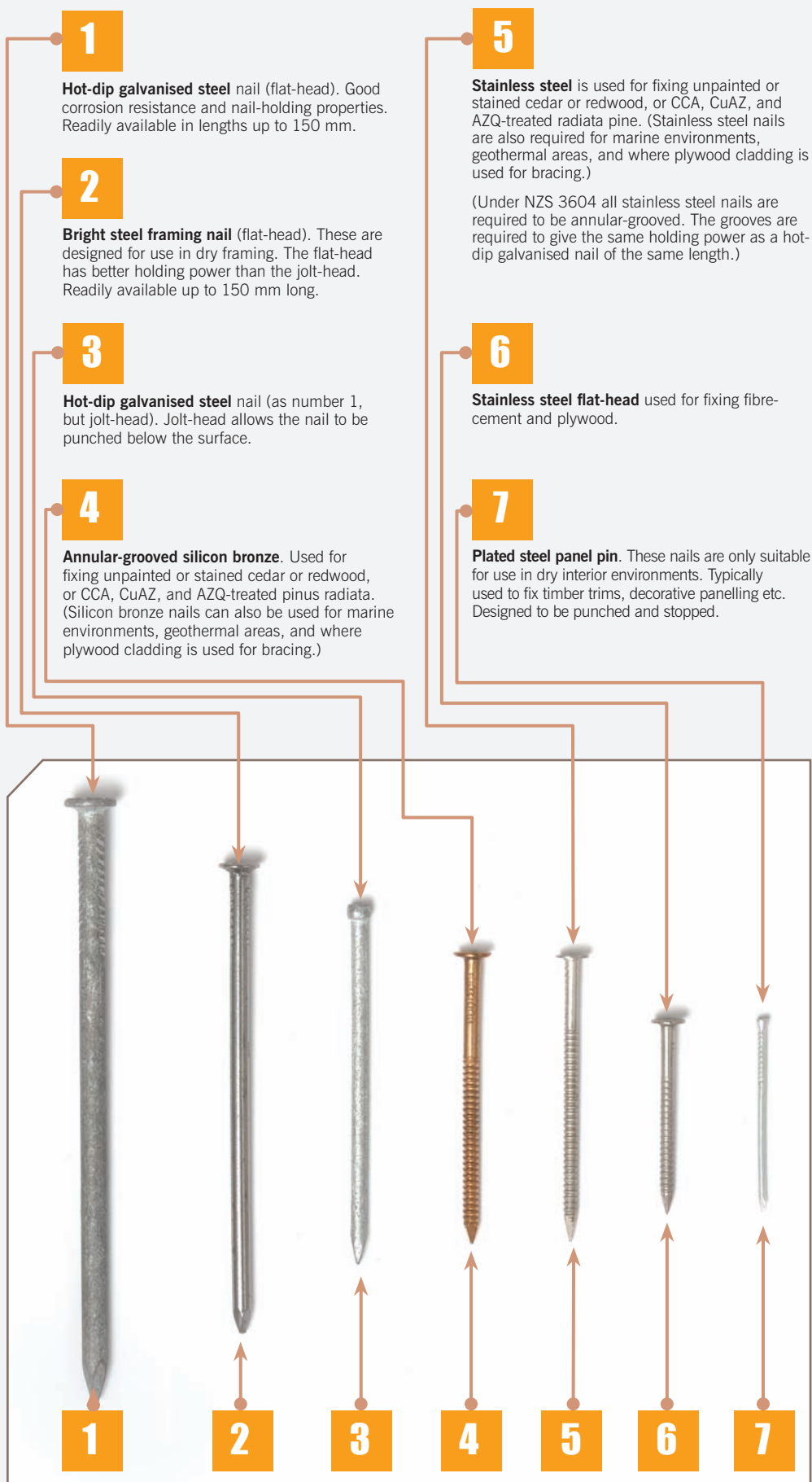
See page 22 in the October 2008 issue of BUILD magazine for more details.



## At a glance

# Nailing it

Choosing the right nail for your hammer is crucial to ensuring the right durability of whatever you are building. Here are seven commonly used hand-driven nails:





# COMPETITION Win!



**A Powerbuilt socket set  
and barbecue  
Together worth over \$299!**

Win this great prize, and you get both the Powerbuilt 1/4" Dr, 1/2" Dr 95pc Metric Socket Set – EURO SERIES and the Powerbuilt barbecue grill – perfect for the summer evenings ahead.

The prize is provided courtesy of The Tool Shed.

All you need to win is tell us the name of the mystery tool (above, right) and what it's used for.

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 32, Mystery Tool Competition, FREEPOST BRANZ, Private Bag 50 908, Porirua 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 31 October 2008. Details will be posted on the BRANZ Ltd website ([www.branz.co.nz](http://www.branz.co.nz)) and in the next edition of *Builder's Mate*, due out on 1 December 2008.

#### Terms and conditions:

Entry is open to all New Zealand residents except employees and immediate families of BRANZ Ltd, BRANZ Pty, Building Research and The Tool Shed shops. The competition will close on Friday 31 October 2008. The prize is not transferable for cash. The judge's decision is final. No correspondence will be entered into.



What is the name of this tool  
pictured below and what is it used for?



## BUILDER'S MATE WINNERS

Photograph: Brendon Powley, winner of the **BM 30** competition, receiving his prize (a Hitachi rotary hammer drill) at the Penrose Toolshed in Auckland.

The winner of the **BM 31** competition was Rex Marshall from Christchurch. The mystery tool was a cat's paw or claw, used for pulling nails out of timber. The prize was a Leica Disto D2 electronic measuring tool.

# BLOKES on the job

## LAWRENCE TAYLOR

Working at Aotea, Porirua



#### Favourite tool

Hilti Nailgun.

#### Favourite tip

Seal the back of your scribes before you put them on.

## HAYDEN COSGROVE

Earlier this year at Jack's Point, Queenstown



#### Favourite tool

Anything that is powered and goes bang.

#### Favourite tip

Check and double check.

## PETER SHEPHARD

Building in Pt Chevalier, Auckland



#### Favourite tool

Stanley knife to sharpen pencil.

#### Favourite tip

Always work on two planks.



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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.