

Carpentry SWMS Cheatsheet

All 20 hazards & controls for formwork, framing and structural carpentry.

1. Falls from height while working on elevated frames or trusses

- Edge protection or guardrails installed before elevated work begins
- Harness and anchor point used for work above 2 metres
- EWP or scaffold used for truss installation, not ladders
- No work on unsecured or partially braced frames

2. Manual handling of timber, sheeting and pre-fabricated frames

- Team lifts for anything over 20kg or awkward loads
- Mechanical lifting (crane or forklift) for trusses and long lengths
- Correct manual handling technique briefed at toolbox talk

3. Nail gun and power tool injury

- Safety glasses and gloves worn for all fixing work
- Trigger lock engaged when tool is not in active use
- Only competent, briefed operators use powder-actuated or nail guns

4. Falling objects and struck-by incidents below elevated work

- Exclusion zone maintained below all elevated framing work
- Tools tethered or lanyarded when working at height
- Toe boards fitted to scaffold and elevated platforms

5. Table saw, circular saw and mitre saw kickback and blade contact injury

- Blade guards fitted and functional on all fixed and hand-held saws
- Push sticks and riving knife used for rip cuts
- Saw stopped and unplugged before blade changes or clearing jams
- Only competent, briefed operators use fixed power tools

7. Collapse of partially erected or unbraced wall and roof frames

- Temporary bracing installed and maintained until permanent fixing is complete
- Frames not left unsecured overnight or ahead of forecast high wind
- Engineer sign-off obtained for any non-standard bracing arrangement

9. Falls from ladders during lining, fixing and fascia work

- Ladder rated and inspected before use
- Three points of contact maintained at all times
- Extension ladders secured top and bottom
- Step platform used instead of a ladder for repetitive short-duration tasks

6. Formwork collapse or blowout during concrete placement

- Formwork designed and braced to engineered specification before pour
- Props and bracing checked immediately before pour starts
- Exclusion zone maintained around formwork during pour
- No work permitted under unsupported or partially stripped formwork

8. Falls through unprotected floor and stair voids

- Penetrations covered and clearly marked immediately after cutting
- Void covers rated for load and secured against displacement
- Edge protection maintained at stairwells until the balustrade is fixed

10. Dust exposure from cutting treated pine, MDF and engineered timber products

- On-tool dust extraction used for saws and routers
- P2 respirator worn for extended or enclosed-space cutting
- Cutting done outdoors or in a ventilated area where practical

11. Struck by crane, truck or EWP during truss and frame delivery

- Exclusion zone maintained during crane lifts
- Spotter used for reversing delivery vehicles
- No work permitted under a suspended load

13. Eye and hand injury from nail gun discharge, offcuts and hand tools

- Safety glasses worn for all cutting and fixing work
- Cut-resistant gloves worn when handling rough or freshly cut timber
- Nail guns never carried or handed over with a finger on the trigger

15. Heat stress working outdoors during summer framing

- Hydration breaks scheduled during hot conditions
- Heavy framing work rescheduled to cooler parts of the day where practical
- Shade provided for breaks

17. Trip and slip hazards from offcuts, packaging and trailing leads

- Work area kept clear of offcuts and packaging throughout the day
- Cords and leads routed away from walkways
- Site cleaned up at the end of each shift

12. Noise exposure from saws, nail guns and routers

- Hearing protection worn for all high-noise tools
- Task rotation used to limit individual exposure duration
- Low-noise tool selection used where available

14. Contact with asbestos in existing structures during renovation or alteration carpentry

- Suspect material identified and left undisturbed until tested
- Licensed asbestos removalist engaged if asbestos is confirmed
- Work stopped and area isolated if suspect material is found

16. UV exposure during extended outdoor framing and fixing work

- Sun-protective clothing and hat worn
- Sunscreen applied and reapplied through the day
- Shade used for breaks where available

18. Hand-arm vibration from extended use of powered hand tools

- Tool use time limited and rotated between crew members
- Low-vibration tools selected where available
- Any tingling or numbness reported and reviewed

19. Working alone on isolated tasks such as fixing bearers or joists under a floor

- Check-in procedure maintained with the supervisor
- Mobile phone carried and charged at all times
- Lone work avoided for elevated-risk tasks

20. Wind loading on unsecured or partially fixed frames and trusses

- Work stopped in high wind conditions per manufacturer or engineer limits
- Additional temporary bracing added ahead of forecast wind events
- Loose sheeting and materials secured or stored before leaving site

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