

Plumbing SWMS Cheatsheet

All 20 hazards & controls for drainage, water supply and gas fitting installation.

1. Trench collapse during excavation deeper than 1.5 metres

- Shoring, battering or benching applied to trench walls per soil type and depth
- No entry to unsupported trenches over 1.5 metres
- Excavated spoil kept clear of the trench edge
- Daily inspection by a competent person before entry

3. Confined space entry in manholes, pits or tanks

- Permit to work completed before entry
- Atmosphere tested before and during entry
- Standby person and rescue plan in place for the duration of entry

2. Contact with underground gas or electrical services

- Dial Before You Dig search completed before any excavation
- Hand digging within 500mm of a marked service
- Service locator (cable/pipe locator) used on site

4. Contact with contaminated water or sewage

- Gloves and eye protection worn for all drainage work
- Hygiene facilities (wash station) available on site
- Cuts and abrasions covered before starting work

5. Gas leak or explosion during gas fitting installation and testing

- Gas fitting work performed only by a licensed gas fitter
- Leak test (soap test or gauge) completed on every joint before use
- Gas supply isolated before disconnecting or altering pipework
- No ignition sources permitted in the work area during gas connection

7. Burns from soldering, brazing and hot works on copper pipework

- Heat shield or fire blanket used near combustible materials
- Fire extinguisher available during hot works
- Gloves and eye protection worn for soldering and brazing
- Hot pipe and fittings allowed to cool before handling

9. Chemical exposure from solvent cement, flux and pipe cleaning agents

- SDS reviewed before use of any solvent or flux product
- Gloves and ventilation used when applying solvent cement
- Product stored and capped correctly between uses

6. Manual handling of pipe, fittings and hot water systems

- Team lift or mechanical aid used for hot water systems and long pipe lengths
- Correct manual handling technique briefed at toolbox talk
- Materials staged close to the work area to limit carry distance

8. Cuts and lacerations from pipe cutters, hacksaws and angle grinders

- Cut-resistant gloves worn for pipe cutting
- Guards fitted and checked on angle grinders
- Tools inspected before each use

10. Silica dust exposure from cutting concrete, tiles or fibre cement pipe

- Wet cutting or on-tool dust extraction used
- P2 respirator worn for dust-generating cutting
- Cutting done in a ventilated area away from other workers

11. Contact with asbestos cement drainage or water pipe in older properties

- 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

13. Struck by mobile plant or vehicles on active excavation sites

- High-visibility clothing worn at all times on site
- Spotter used when working near reversing plant
- Site traffic management plan followed

15. Burns or scalds during hot water system installation and pressure testing

- System isolated and drained before disconnecting components
- Pressure released before opening any test point
- Temperature and pressure relief valve function checked before commissioning

12. Falls from height accessing roof plumbing, gutters and downpipes

- Compliant ladder or EWP used for roof access
- Harness and anchor point used for work above 2 metres
- No work on wet or unstable roof sheeting

14. Slips and trips on wet surfaces, trench spoil and uneven ground

- Work area kept clear of spoil, offcuts and hoses
- Appropriate footwear worn for wet and uneven conditions
- Walkways kept clear around open trenches

16. Exposure to legionella or bacterial contamination in existing water systems

- Gloves and eye protection worn when opening old tanks or cylinders
- Hands washed before eating, drinking or touching the face
- System flushed and disinfected per manufacturer guidance after opening

17. Noise exposure from drills, saws and compaction equipment

- Hearing protection worn for high-noise tools
- Task duration near loud equipment limited where practical
- Low-noise tool selection used where available

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

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

19. Heat stress working in trenches or outdoors during summer

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

20. Working alone on isolated or remote plumbing tasks

- Check-in procedure maintained with the office or supervisor
- Mobile phone carried and charged at all times
- Lone work avoided for confined space entry or trench work

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