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# What to Expect from my Builder or Tradesperson during COVID-19 Alert Levels

The New Zealand government COVID-19 response includes different Alert Levels that may be in place over the whole country or in your region. This guide is for residential homeowners that may be engaging tradespeople in the construction industry to do work in their homes or on a site where they are not living.

## ALERT LEVEL 3

Builders and tradespeople can work during Alert Level 3 but have requirements that need to be in place to protect them and people they may meet.

Firstly, you should not enter a building site during Alert Level 3. Access to building sites is very restricted during this time and limited to persons involved in doing the work. If you want updates on your build, then please do this by phone. Most builders will be happy to send videos and or photos to show progress.

### Things you should see on residential building sites:

- Access to the site should be controlled to prevent people coming onto site in an uncontrolled way.
- There should be a sign in register, hygiene station (this could be soap and water or sanitiser) and a New Zealand government COVID-19 tracer bar code.
- Signs on the site advising workers and other visitors (like building inspectors) of the site procedures.
- Generally, workers on site should no closer than one metre, and where they can two

metres – however they can be closer if they have taken other appropriate steps (like masks, gloves, limiting the time etc).

- There is no limit on the number of people on site but the physical distancing must be in place, for this reason building sites are encouraged to have different trades on sites at different times. Site managers will actively work to limit trades on site to a maximum of one trades type inside and one trades type outside of any property at any stage.

### What about tradespeople working in homes?

- The tradesperson will want to know whether you are well and whether you are isolating for any reason. Work will not be able to continue if you are sick or isolating.
- You also need to advise the tradesperson if you have a vulnerable person living at home.
- You should arrange the work if possible (by phone or email) to be at a time when you are not there to limit contact. If you have to be there, then please remain at least two metres away from your tradesperson at all times.

- If it is a renovation and you are living in the house, then you need to discuss and plan with your builder how best to ensure how the construction protocols will be achieved. This should be documented and agreed. Your details will also need to be recorded for potential contact tracing on a daily basis.
- Your tradesperson will take extra steps around cleaning the area, tools and equipment on a daily basis as well as their own personal hand washing.
- Your tradesperson may wear masks and gloves depending on the nature of the work, he or she may also ask you to take precautions in a similar manner to protect everyone involved.

### **What to Expect from my Builder or Tradesperson during COVID-19 Alert Levels**

- The New Zealand government COVID-19 response includes different Alert Levels that may be in place over the whole country or in your region. This guide is for residential homeowners that may be engaging tradespeople in the construction industry to do work in their homes or on a site where they are not living.

### **ALERT LEVEL 2**

Builders and tradespeople can work during Alert Level 2 but have requirements that need to be in place to protect them and people they may meet.

#### **Things you should see on residential building sites:**

- Access to the site should be controlled to prevent people coming onto site in an uncontrolled way.
- There should be a sign in register, hygiene station (this could be soap and water or sanitiser) and a New Zealand government COVID-19 tracer bar code.
- Signs on the site advising workers and other visitors (like building inspectors) of the site procedures

- Generally, workers on site should no closer than one metre and where they can two metres – however they can be closer if they have taken other appropriate steps (like masks, gloves, limiting the time etc)
- There is no limit on the number of people on site but the physical distancing must be in place.
- What about tradespeople working in homes?
- The tradesperson will want to know whether you are well and whether you are isolating for any reason. Work will not be able to continue if you are sick or isolating.
- You also need to advise the tradesperson if you have a vulnerable person living at home. Work should be able to continue but a plan may have to be put in place to make sure this person is safe.
- While the tradesperson is on site please remain at least two metres away from them.
- If it is a renovation and you are living in the house, then you need to discuss and plan with your builder how best to ensure how the construction protocols will be achieved. This should be documented and agreed. Your details will also need to be recorded for potential contact tracing on a daily basis.
- Your tradesperson will take extra steps around cleaning the area, tools and equipment on a regular basis as well as their own personal hand washing.
- Your tradesperson may wear masks and gloves depending on the nature of the work, he or she may also ask you to take precautions in a similar manner to protect everyone involved.