

How are we injuring ourselves at work?

RESIDENTIAL BUILDERS

TOTAL DAYS LOST TO INJURY IN 2014:

117,789



COST TO BUSINESS FOR INJURY IN 2014:

\$24m+



NUMBER OF CLAIMS IN 2014:

11,422

2345

COST OF ACTIVE CLAIMS TO ACC IN 2014:

\$21m+



Where it's hurting us

EAR

NUMBER OF CLAIMS: 2,189

INJURY COST: \$1,668,461

DAYS LOST: 0

"I walked into a confined space when a workmate shot a ramset gun. I had a lot of pain in my ear, my balance was off and have been deaf since."

NECK/HEAD/VERTEBRAE

NUMBER OF CLAIMS: 365

INJURY COST: \$1,653,808

DAYS LOST: 4,780

"I stood up quickly and whacked my head on a window frame. I've had neck pain since."

EYE

NUMBER OF CLAIMS: 760

INJURY COST: \$112,231

DAYS LOST: 152

"I was excavating a fence post hole and breaking concrete in the way, a chip got behind my safety glasses."

SHOULDER/CLAVICLE

NUMBER OF CLAIMS: 711

INJURY COST: \$3,396,490

DAYS LOST: 21,279

"I was lifting a bucket of bricks and the handle of the bucket broke and pulled my shoulder and neck."

FINGER/THUMB

NUMBER OF CLAIMS: 1,168

INJURY COST: \$1,315,875

DAYS LOST: 8,826

"I was installing a window and my hand slipped, it went through the glass. I cut my right wrist and ring finger."

LOWER BACK/SPINE

NUMBER OF CLAIMS: 1,618

INJURY COST: \$3,514,654

DAYS LOST: 26,626

"I jarred my back when using a jackhammer to break up concrete, it's been painful since."

TOP 5 INJURY SITES BY NUMBER

- 1) Ear
- 2) Lower back/spine
- 3) Finger/thumb
- 4) Eye
- 5) Shoulder (incl clavicle/blade)

2345

TOP 5 INJURY SITES BY COST

- 1) Lower back/spine
- 2) Shoulder (incl clavicle/blade)
- 3) Ear
- 4) Neck, back of head/vertebrae
- 5) Finger/thumb

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How we calculated this information (using 2014 data)

Cost of active claims to ACC

The total includes the cost (excl GST) to ACC of all treatment and entitlements incurred for that claim.

Cost of injury claims to business

The total cost to business is based on the average salary of residential builders (derived from Occupation Outlook Report, MBIE 2013) by the number of working

days in 2014, this was used to calculate the average daily salary for the occupation. The number of days of productivity lost to injury was multiplied by this figure to identify the cost of injury claims to business.

Remember a tidy worksite is a safe worksite

High risk areas

- When working at a height use the appropriate scaffolding or falls protection to prevent workers from a fall.
- Overreaching when carrying out your work is one of the major contributions to a person overloading shoulder and muscles in the back region.
- When using any type of power tool remember to wear hearing and eye protection.
- If you are required to lift or carry a heavy object or materials then remember the old saying 'many hands make light work'.
- Think before you act.

How do you reduce your risk?

It's easy to reduce your risk of injury, just follow these simple tips to help keep yourself and your workmates safe on the job.

EAR

- Wear the appropriate hearing protection when working around noisy equipment.
- Place warning signs in areas of excessive noise – above 85 decibels.
- Check noisy tools to ensure that they are well maintained and when possible separate workers from noisy activities.
- If you cannot hear a person talking to you without shouting then you need to wear hearing protection.



HEAD/VERTEBRAE

- The best protection for your head is a hard hat, especially when working around scaffolding.
- Ensure that your building site working areas and access ways are clear of any obstructions that may lead to an accident.



SHOULDER

- Avoid any activities where you are overreaching.
- Avoid sudden uncontrolled or jerky movements.

BACK/SPINE

- Avoid lifting and carrying heavy or awkward materials: if you have to lift or carry it get a mate to help.
- Avoid twisting when carrying or lifting a heavy load.
- Reduce the amount of bending, reaching forward and twisting loads.
- Use mechanical load shifting devices such as cranes, hoist and hand trucks to move materials around the worksite.
- Fit temporary lifting points or handles to heavy or awkward loads.
- If manual lifting is required, make sure you have enough workers available to complete the task.



FINGER/THUMB

- Check that all tool guards function correctly and are safe to use.
- When using an electric drill be aware of the dangers of applying too much pressure and jamming the drill.
 - Keep your hands clear of any moving parts.
- Make sure that any exposed nails and other sharp objects are removed or knocked in.



Other ways to reduce the likelihood of risk

- Remove unwanted materials and construction waste from the worksite so that it does not accumulate.
- Ensure that all power leads and other tools and equipment are positioned so as not to cause a tripping hazard.
- Avoid attaching bracing across door frames where people are likely to walk through.