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Construction – **Residential**

Amenities on housing sites >

This information bulletin provides guidance to house builders on meeting the requirements of Regulation 54 Workplace Health and Safety Regulations to provide amenities during building or construction work.

Builders must provide or have access to, adequate amenities for housing construction sites to ensure the health, safety and welfare of their employees and others using their sites. The amenities provided by the builder must be adequate, accessible and timely.

Scope

This guidance applies to the construction, renovation or extension of:

- detached houses; and
- attached dwellings, separated from each other by a fire resisting wall, such as terrace, row or town houses; and
- ancillary buildings to the above, such as private garages, gazeboes and carports.

Note: The above are based on classes 1, 2 & 10 of the Building Code of Australia.

Multi-storey buildings (i.e. above 3 habitable storeys) are not included in the scope of this bulletin.

Who needs amenities?

The builder's own employees need amenities. So do the builder's contractors and their employees. Visitors to site also need access to amenities.

What is meant by amenities?

Amenities are those facilities provided for a housing construction site to provide for the health, safety and welfare of persons working on that site and mean the following:

- meal and shelter facilities;
- toilets;
- washing facilities; and
- drinking water.

General Provisions

The provision of amenities that are reasonably practicable should take into account the following:

- The location of the site.
- The nature of the work to be done.
- The number of workers.
- The availability of power and services.
- The builder should plan for the following:
- The safe and convenient location of amenities.
- Positioning and construction to prevent external flooding.
- Clear access to amenities at all times.
- Hygienic and safe discharge of waste water.
- Clean and sanitary amenities.
- Adequate natural and/or artificial lighting for safe access and use of amenities.
- Enclosed amenities should be of sound construction and weatherproof, with adequate ventilation and lighting.

NT WorkSafe is the administrative arm of the Work Health Authority and administers the *Workplace Health and Safety Act*, the *Workers Rehabilitation and Compensation Act*, the *Dangerous Goods (Road and Rail Transport) Act*, the *Dangerous Goods Act* and the *Radioactive Ores and Concentrates (Packaging and Transport) Act* and related Regulations on behalf of the Northern Territory Government.

Consultation

The builder, contractors and workers should consult with each other to determine the type and extent of any additional amenities to be provided on a particular site.

Meal and shelter facilities

The builder should provide hygienic and weatherproof meal and shelter facilities in an area accessible to the building under construction at the earliest opportunity eg. in the garage or similar covered area.

These facilities should include:

- Adequate seating (which could include a board across two trestles and other alternatives to chairs) and a clean surface upon which to place food, which could include an esky provided by the worker or subcontractor or other material owned or controlled by the relevant subcontractor.
- A rubbish bin with a lid or appropriate alternatives for the hygienic disposal of food scraps.

At the initial stages of construction, but only until an adequate area can be made available, shelter may be provided in the form of contractors' vehicles.

Toilets

Workers must have access to conveniently located toilet facilities. Where the toilet is not connected to the sewerage system, self-contained fresh water flushing portable toilets should be provided that are regularly serviced in accordance with the supplier's information and instructions, but not less than monthly.

To provide an acceptable standard of hygiene and privacy, the toilet must be:

- Kept clean.
- Weatherproof.
- Well lit and well ventilated, either naturally or artificially.
- Provided with a hinged seat and lid.
- Provided with a door which can be locked from inside.
- Provided with a well-drained floor above ground level that is covered with a durable waterproof material.
- Provided with a plentiful supply of toilet paper.
- Set up to remain level and stable under all working conditions.

Toilets may be shared between sites if:

- The sites are under the control of the same builder or there is clear agreement between the builders
- The toilets are convenient and readily accessible to the workers on each site, and
- There is at least one toilet per fifteen workers.

Where female workers are present on site, appropriate measures for sanitary item disposal should be made, such as a disposal unit provided in the portable toilet or sewer connected toilet closet.

Washing Facilities

Hand washing facilities within or adjacent to each toilet or urinal should be provided. Clean water and soap should be provided for the purposes of washing.

Drinking Water

A readily accessible and plentiful supply of drinking water must be available to all workers on the site.

The site water tapping, complete with hose bib-tap, should be installed at the earliest opportunity.

Where a mains water supply connection is not possible, drinking water may be provided using flasks, labelled water containers, water bags or similar. However, mains water supply should be provided at the earliest possible time.

Drinking water facilities must be separated from toilet facilities to ensure adequate hygiene.

NT WorkSafe >

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