

## General Painting Surface Prep Decorating | SAFE WORK METHOD STATEMENT (SWMS)

### TASK OR ACTIVITY: General Painting Surface Prep Decorating

Business Name:	ABN:	SWMS#
Business Address:		
Contact Person:	Phone:	Email:

### THIS SAFE WORK METHOD STATEMENT IS APPROVED BY THE PCBU OF THE PROJECT

Under the Work Health and Safety Regulation (WHS Regulation), a person conducting a business or undertaking (PCBU) is required to ensure that a safe work method statement (SWMS) is prepared before the proposed work starts.

Full Name:		
Signature:	Title:	Date:
Details of the person(s) responsible for ensuring implementation, monitoring compliance of the SWMS as well as reviews and modifications of the SWMS.		
Full Name:	Title:	Phone:

### ALL PERSONNEL PARTICIPATING IN ANY ACTIVITY ON THIS SWMS MUST HAVE THE FOLLOWING COMMUNICATED

Safety meetings or toolbox talks will be scheduled in accordance with legislative requirements to first identify any site hazards, then to communicate those hazards and then to further take steps to either eliminate or control each hazard.

If an incident or a near miss occurs, all work must stop immediately. Depending on the severity of the incident, a meeting will be called with all workers to amend the SWMS if required. The meeting may also be an educational opportunity.

Any changes made to the SWMS after an incident or a near miss must be approved by the Person Conducting Business or Undertaking and communicated to all relevant personnel.

The SWMS must be kept and be available for inspection at least until the work is completed. Where a SWMS is revised, all versions should be kept. If a notifiable incident occurs in relation to which the SWMS relates, then the SWMS must be kept for at least two years from the occurrence of the notifiable incident.

### NAME OF ALL RELEVANT PERSONNEL WHO HAVE BEEN CONSULTED AND COMMUNICATED TO IN THE DEVELOPMENT AND APPROVAL OF THIS SWMS

### CLIENT OR PRINCIPAL CONTRACTOR DETAILS

Client:	SCOPE OF WORKS
Project Name:	
Project Address:	
Project Manager:	
Contact Phone:	
Date SWMS supplied to Project Manager:	

### ANY HIGH-RISK CONSTRUCTION WORK BEING CARRIED OUT

- |  |  |
|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> involves a risk of a person falling more than 2 meters  | <input type="checkbox"/> is carried out on or near pressurised gas mains or piping                                     |
| <input type="checkbox"/> is carried out on a telecommunication tower   | <input type="checkbox"/> is carried out on or near chemical, fuel or refrigerant lines                                 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> involves demolition of an element of a structure that is load-bearing                           | <input type="checkbox"/> is carried out on or near energised electrical installations or services                      |
| <input type="checkbox"/> involves demolition of an element related to the physical integrity of a structure              | <input type="checkbox"/> is carried out in an area that may have a contaminated or flammable atmosphere                |
| <input type="checkbox"/> involves, or is likely to involve, disturbing asbestos  | <input type="checkbox"/> involves tilt-up or precast concrete  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> involves structural alteration or repair that requires temporary support to prevent collapse    | <input type="checkbox"/> is carried out on, in or adjacent to a road, railway, shipping lane or other traffic corridor |
| <input type="checkbox"/> is carried out in or near a confined space  | <input type="checkbox"/> is carried out in an area of a workplace where there is any movement of powered mobile plant  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> is carried out in/near a shaft or trench deeper than 1.5m or tunnel involving use of explosives | <input type="checkbox"/> is carried out in areas with artificial extremes of temperature.                              |
| <input type="checkbox"/> is carried out in or near water or other liquid that involves a risk of drowning.               | <input type="checkbox"/> involves diving work.   |

### ANY HIGH-RISK MACHINERY OR EQUIPMENT NEARBY

### RISK MATRIX

LIKELIHOOD	INSIGNIFICANT	MINOR	MODERATE	MAJOR	CATASTROPHIC	SCORE	ACTION	HEIRARCHY OF CONTROLS
ALMOST CERTAIN	3 HIGH	3 HIGH	4 ACUTE	4 ACUTE	4 ACUTE			<b>Elimination</b> Remove the hazard.
LIKELY	2 MODERATE	3 HIGH	3 HIGH	4 ACUTE	4 ACUTE	4A ACUTE	DO NOT PROCEED	<b>Substitution</b> Replace the hazard.
POSSIBLE	1 LOW	2 MODERATE	3 HIGH	4 ACUTE	4 ACUTE	3H HIGH	Review before work starts.	<b>Isolation</b> Isolate People from the hazard
UNLIKELY	1 LOW	1 LOW	2 MODERATE	3 HIGH	4 ACUTE	2M MODERATE	Ensure control measures in place.	<b>Engineering</b> Isolate the hazard.
RARE	1 LOW	1 LOW	2 MODERATE	3 HIGH	3 HIGH	1L LOW	Monitor and keep records	<b>Administrative</b> Change the work.
<b>Notes on Hierarchy of Controls:</b> Elimination methods are the most effective and preferred when controlling a hazard. Substitution is the second most effective method of controlling a hazard. Engineering by isolation is the third most effective, while Administrative Controls by changing the work is the fourth most effective method. PPE (Personal Protective Equipment) is the least effective method.								<b>PPE</b>

### PERSONAL PROTECTIVE EQUIPMENT (PPE)

Select the appropriate PPE above suitable for the equipment used or the job task being performed (if applicable).

FOOT PROTECTION	HAND PROTECTION	HEAD PROTECTION	HEARING PROTECTION	EYE PROTECTION	RESPIRATORY PROTECTION	FACE PROTECTION	HIGH-VIS CLOTHING	PROTECTIVE CLOTHING	FALL PROTECTION	SUN PROTECTION	HAIR/JEWELLERY SECURED
											
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Other PPE Required:

### Permit or Licenses Requirements

### Mandatory Qualifications and Training

JOB STEP	POTENTIAL HAZARDS	IR	CONTROL MEASURES	RR
SPECIFIC WORK STEPS	HAZARDS THAT MAY ARISE	INITIAL RISK	SPECIFIC MEASURES TO BE PUT IN PLACE TO ELIMINATE OR CONTROL THE RISKS	RESIDUAL RISK
Pre-start planning and documentation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Incomplete SWMS development</li> <li>Unidentified high risk construction work</li> <li>Inadequate emergency planning</li> <li>Unverified worker competency</li> <li>Inaccurate safety data sheet information</li> </ul>	3H	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Review scope of works for surface preparation, priming, undercoat, topcoat and decorative finishes and identify tasks involving working at heights, volatile substances and flame retardant application as high risk construction work</li> <li>Develop and approve a task-specific SWMS and job plan before starting any painting or decorating activities</li> <li>Obtain and review current Safety Data Sheets (SDS) for all paints, primers, undercoats, solvents, flame retardants, sealers, caulks and anti-graffiti coatings to confirm required controls</li> <li>Confirm all workers hold relevant construction induction training (White Card) and are competent in painting, surface preparation, use of all equipment and handling hazardous chemicals</li> <li>Conduct a pre-start toolbox talk to communicate hazards, control measures, emergency procedures, weather contingencies and permit conditions to all workers</li> <li>Establish emergency procedures for fire, chemical exposure, falls from height and environmental spills, and display emergency contact numbers at the work area</li> <li>Verify all required permits (e.g. hot work permit if using heat sources, building access permits, confined space entry permits if applicable) are obtained and current</li> <li>DO NOT commence work until the supervisor confirms that controls, permits and emergency equipment (first aid kit, fire extinguisher, spill kit, eye wash) are in place</li> </ul>	2M
Site assessment and isolation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Unauthorised public access</li> <li>Unplanned vehicle movement</li> <li>Contact with live electrical services</li> <li>Poor housekeeping conditions</li> <li>Weather exposure during outdoor painting</li> </ul>	3H	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Inspect work area for vehicle routes, public access points, overhead powerlines, electrical outlets, fragile surfaces and existing damage before setting up</li> <li>Install physical barriers, lockable gates or temporary fencing to separate the painting work zone from public and other trades in accordance with site traffic management plans</li> <li>Post clear danger and warning signage for wet paint, overhead work, volatile substances, restricted access and no smoking zones</li> <li>Locate and isolate, where practicable, electrical services in the immediate work area; tag and lock out circuits if required by a licensed electrician</li> <li>Maintain clear pedestrian access ways and emergency exits by storing materials and equipment away from doors, stairs and corridors</li> <li>Check weather forecasts for wind, rain and extreme heat before commencing any exterior painting, staining or spraying activities</li> <li>Suspend exterior painting, staining or spraying during high winds, lightning, heavy rain or when overspray may drift to pedestrians, traffic or property</li> <li>DO NOT set up ladders, mobile scaffolds or work platforms on soft ground, loose rubble, wet surfaces or sloping driveways without engineering controls to stabilise the base</li> </ul>	2M

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Set up access equipment and work at heights	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Falls from ladders</li> <li>Falls from scaffolds</li> <li>Falling tools or paint cans</li> <li>Scaffold or platform collapse</li> <li>Overreaching while painting high places</li> </ul>	4A	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Assess if work can be completed from the ground using extension poles or adjustable tools and eliminate the need to work at height where reasonably practicable</li> <li>Use properly erected scaffolds, mobile scaffold towers or elevated work platforms (EWPs) for prolonged or repetitive high painting tasks such as exterior walls, awnings, blinds and high ceilings</li> <li>Ensure scaffolds are erected, altered and dismantled by a competent person in accordance with manufacturer instructions and relevant Australian Standards, and fitted with guardrails, midrails and toe boards</li> <li>Inspect ladders, mobile scaffolds and EWPs for damage, defects, missing components and legible rating labels before each use. Remove defective equipment from service immediately</li> <li>Set extension ladders at a 1:1 ratio, secure top and bottom, and extend at least 1 metre above the landing point</li> <li>Maintain three points of contact on ladders and position face-on to the task; carry tools in a tool belt or hoist rather than hands</li> <li>Install toe boards and use secure storage trays on scaffolds and EWPs to prevent paint cans, brushes and scrapers from falling</li> <li>Prohibit standing on the top two rungs or the top plate of step ladders and prohibit moving ladders while a person is on them</li> <li>Fit fall arrest harnesses to workers using EWPs or where specified by the site risk assessment and connect to approved anchor points rated to applicable Australian Standards</li> <li>DO NOT overreach from ladders or platforms; reposition equipment instead of leaning beyond the side rails</li> </ul>	2M
Handling and mixing paints and solvents	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Flammable vapour ignition</li> <li>Static electricity discharge</li> <li>Chemical splash to eyes</li> <li>Inhalation of solvent vapours</li> <li>Skin contact with irritants</li> </ul>	4A	<p>[REDACTED]</p> <p>[REDACTED]</p> <p>[REDACTED]</p> <p>[REDACTED]</p> <p>[REDACTED]</p> <p>[REDACTED]</p> <p>[REDACTED]</p>	2M

JOB STEP	POTENTIAL HAZARDS	IR	CONTROL MEASURES	RR
SPECIFIC WORK STEPS	HAZARDS THAT MAY ARISE	INITIAL RISK	SPECIFIC MEASURES TO BE PUT IN PLACE TO ELIMINATE OR CONTROL THE RISKS	RESIDUAL RISK
Surface inspection and preparation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Lead-based paint disturbance</li> <li>• Asbestos-containing material disturbance</li> <li>• Hidden mould growth</li> <li>• Sharp edges and protrusions</li> <li>• Manual handling</li> </ul>			2M
Sanding, scraping and surface treatments	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Airborne dust inhalation</li> <li>• Noise from power sanders</li> <li>• Hand-arm vibration exposure</li> <li>• Flying debris and splinters</li> <li>• Fire from sanding near heat sources</li> </ul>	3H		2M

3H

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Specialised coatings and flame retardant application	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Toxic fume generation</li> <li>• Incompatible coating reactions</li> <li>• Inhalation of flame retardant particles</li> <li>• Increased fire risk during application</li> <li>• Environmental contamination from runoff</li> </ul>	4A		2M
Detail work, caulking and decorative finishes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Repetitive strain injuries</li> <li>• Fine motor tool slips</li> <li>• Exposure to sealant fumes</li> <li>• Contact with sharp trim edges</li> <li>• Eye strain from close work</li> </ul>	3H		2M



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SPECIFIC WORK STEPS	HAZARDS THAT MAY ARISE	INITIAL RISK	SPECIFIC MEASURES TO BE PUT IN PLACE TO ELIMINATE OR CONTROL THE RISKS	RESIDUAL RISK
Exterior painting and weather management	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• UV radiation exposure</li> <li>• Heat stress and dehydration</li> <li>• Slippery wet surfaces</li> <li>• Wind-blown overspray</li> <li>• Sudden weather changes</li> </ul>	3H		1L
Manual handling and material storage	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Back and shoulder strain</li> <li>• Crushed toes from dropped cans</li> <li>• Trips over stored materials</li> <li>• Stack collapse of paint tins</li> <li>• Spills from damaged containers</li> </ul>	3H		2M

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SPECIFIC WORK STEPS	HAZARDS THAT MAY ARISE	INITIAL RISK	SPECIFIC MEASURES TO BE PUT IN PLACE TO ELIMINATE OR CONTROL THE RISKS	RESIDUAL RISK
Cleaning, touch ups and waste management	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Exposure to cleaning solvents</li> <li>• Blocked or contaminated drains</li> <li>• Slip hazards from wash water</li> <li>• Cuts from cleaning tools</li> <li>• Residual paint fume build-up</li> </ul>	3H		2M
Completion, inspection and demobilisation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Residual trip hazards</li> <li>• Unsecured leftover materials</li> <li>• Unidentified defects in coatings</li> <li>• Exposure to uncured surfaces</li> <li>• Uncontrolled re-entry by occupants</li> </ul>	2M		1L

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SAMPLE

## EMERGENCY RESPONSE – CALL 000 FOR EMERGENCIES

Ensure to have an Emergency Management Plan in place as well as adequate numbers of trained first aid staff with easy access to fully stocked first aid kits, rescue equipment, material safety data sheets, adequate access to emergency communication equipment and fire-fighting equipment suitable for all classes of fire and ignition sources.

## LEGISLATIVE REFERENCES

RELEVANT LEGISLATION AND CODES OF PRACTICE. DELETE THE LEGISLATIVE REFERENCES IF ANY STATE IS NOT APPLICABLE

### Queensland & Australian Capital Territory

Work Health and Safety Act 2011

Work Health and Safety Regulations 2011

Legislation QLD: <https://www.worksafe.qld.gov.au/laws-and-compliance/work-health-and-safety-laws>

Codes of Practice QLD: <https://www.worksafe.qld.gov.au/laws-and-compliance/codes-of-practice>

Legislation ACT: <https://www.worksafe.act.gov.au/laws-and-compliance/acts-and-regulations>

Codes of Practice ACT: <https://www.worksafe.act.gov.au/laws-and-compliance/codes-of-practice>

### Victoria

Occupational Health and Safety Act 2004

Occupational Health and Safety Regulations 2017

Legislation VIC: <https://www.worksafe.vic.gov.au/occupational-health-and-safety-act-and-regulations>

Codes of Practice VIC: <https://www.worksafe.vic.gov.au/compliance-codes-and-codes-practice>

### New South Wales

Work Health and Safety Act 2011

Work Health and Safety Regulations 2025

Legislation NSW: <https://www.safework.nsw.gov.au/legal-obligations/legislation>

Codes of Practice NSW: <https://www.safework.nsw.gov.au/resource-library/list-codes-of-practice>

### Western Australia

Work Health and Safety Act 2020

Work Health and Safety Regulations 2022

Legislation Western Australia: <https://www.commerce.wa.gov.au/worksafe/legislation>

Codes of Practice WA: <https://www.commerce.wa.gov.au/worksafe/codes-practice>

### Northern Territory

Work Health and Safety (National Uniform Legislation) Act 2011

Work Health and Safety (National Uniform Legislation) Regulation 2011

Legislation NT: <https://worksafe.nt.gov.au/laws-and-compliance/workplace-safety-laws>

Codes of Practice NT: <https://worksafe.nt.gov.au/factsheets-and-resources/codes-of-practice>

### Safe Work Australia Links

Law and Regulation (All States): <https://www.safeworkaustralia.gov.au/law-and-regulation>

Model Codes of Practice: <https://www.safeworkaustralia.gov.au/resources-publications/model-codes-of-practice>

### Model Codes of Practice

- Managing noise and preventing hearing loss at work
- Confined spaces
- Labelling of workplace hazardous chemicals
- Managing risks of hazardous chemicals in the workplace
- Welding processes
- First aid in the workplace
- Managing the risk of falls at workplaces
- Hazardous manual tasks
- Managing the risk of falls in housing construction
- Managing electrical risks in the workplace
- Demolition work
- Excavation work
- Work health and safety consultation, cooperation and coordination
- Managing the work environment and facilities
- How to manage work health and safety risks
- Managing risks of plant in the workplace
- Construction work

### South Australia

Work Health and Safety Act 2012 (SA)

Work Health and Safety Regulations 2012 (SA)

Legislation for SA: <https://www.safework.sa.gov.au/resources/legislation>

Codes of Practice for SA: <https://www.safework.sa.gov.au/workplaces/codes-of-practice#COPs>

### Tasmania

Work Health and Safety Act 2012

Work Health and Safety (Transitional and Consequential Provisions) Act 2012

Work Health and Safety Regulations 2012

Work Health and Safety (Transitional) Regulations 2012

Legislation for TAS: <https://worksafe.tas.gov.au/topics/laws-and-compliance/acts-and-regulations>

Codes of Practice for TAS: <https://worksafe.tas.gov.au/topics/laws-and-compliance/codes-of-practice>

Details of permits, licenses or access required by regulatory bodies (add or delete as required):

- Permits from local council
- Authorisation to commence work
- Any required documents.

## SIGNATORIES OF THE SAFE WORK METHOD STATEMENT

The signed and dated personnel listed below have cooperated in the consultation and development of this Safe Work Method Statement which has been approved by the Person/s Conducting a Business or Undertaking (PCBU). In signing this Safe Work Method Statement each individual acknowledges and confirms that they have read this SWMS in full, having raised any questions for items on this Safe Work Method Statement that require clarification, and confirms that they are competent, skilled and knowledgeable for the task assigned to them. Every person acknowledges that they have received the relevant training and qualifications where required, before carrying out any work contained in this Safe Work Method Statement. By signing this Safe Work Method Statement each individual agrees to work safely, to follow any safe work instructions which are provided, and agrees to use all Personal Protective Equipment where appropriate.

Worker Name	Signature	Date

## SAFE WORK METHOD STATEMENT MONITORING AND REVIEW

**The SWMS must be reviewed regularly** to make sure it remains effective and must be reviewed (and revised if necessary) if relevant control measures are revised. The review must be carried out in consultation with workers (including contractors and sub-contractors) who may be affected by the operation of the SWMS and their health and safety representatives who represent that work group at the workplace.

When the SWMS has been revised the PCBU must ensure that all persons involved with the work are advised that a revision has been made and how they can access the revised SWMS, including all persons who will need to change a work procedure or system as a result of the review are advised of the changes in a way that will enable them to implement their duties consistently with the revised SWMS. All workers that will be involved in the work must be provided with the relevant information and instruction that will assist them to understand and implement the revised SWMS.

**The SWMS must be monitored regularly** for the effectiveness of ensuring hazard controls are effective in reducing the risk of incidents, keeping the workplace safe for all personnel. The person responsible for monitoring the effectiveness of the Safe Work Method Statement should employ a multi-faceted approach which includes but is not limited to:

1. Spot Checks.
2. Consultation with workers, contractors and sub-contractors.
3. Internal audits on a continual basis.

An approach of continuous improvement, promptly recording inconsistencies or deficiencies, followed up by immediate corrective action and consultation with all relevant personnel ensures that the PCBU is consistently developing ever-improving systems of safe work principles.

REVIEW NUMBER	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
NAME							
INITIALS							
DATE							

### SAFE WORK METHOD STATEMENT REVIEW CHECKLIST

This Safe Work Method Statement Review Checklist is to be followed and used upon initial development of the SWMS to help ensure that all steps have been adequately taken before work commences. Think of this document as an internal audit review checklist before commencing work, and may form part of a Toolbox Talk (safety meeting) and may be used as an opportunity for education and training.

ITEMS WHICH MUST BE INCLUDED IN THE SWMS	COMPLETED	COMMENTS
The company details have been entered, including the project name and address.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
All relevant personnel consulted during the development of the SWMS.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
Name, signature, position and date signed of the person approving the SWMS.	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Specific personnel and qualifications, experience is noted in the SWMS.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
Provides a step-by-step process of tasks required to carry out the activity or task.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
Adequate risk assessment of any identified hazards has been completed.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
Foreseeable hazards are identified and documented for each step.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
Any hazards listed in any site risk assessments have been added to the SWMS.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
SWMS initial risk (IR) column as well as residual risk (RR) column completed.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
Check control measures added to the SWMS are the most effective selected.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
Responsible person is assigned and listed on the SWMS for the implementation of control measures.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
Permit or licenses requirements specified, such as Hot Work, Electrical Work, Work at Heights etc.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
SWMS identifies plant and equipment to be used.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
Details of inspection checks required for any equipment listed and noted on the SWMS.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
Describes any mandatory qualifications, experience, training or skills required to perform the work.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
Applicable personal protective equipment is selected on the SWMS.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
Reflects and documents any legislative references and/or Australian Standards.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
Identifies any hazardous substances used with specific control measures in line with any SDS.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
REVIEWED BY	DATE REVIEWED	
SIGNATURE	DATE COMPLETED	