

## Using Rotary Hammer Drills | SAFE WORK METHOD STATEMENT (SWMS)

### TASK OR ACTIVITY: Using Rotary Hammer Drills

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 2m 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			 <p><b>Elimination</b> Remove the hazard.</p> <p><b>Substitution</b> Replace the hazard.</p> <p><b>Isolation</b> Isolate People from the hazard</p> <p><b>Engineering</b> Isolate the hazard.</p> <p><b>Administrative</b> Change the work.</p> <p><b>PPE</b></p>	
LIKELY	2 MODERATE	3 HIGH	3 HIGH	4 ACUTE	4 ACUTE	4A ACUTE	DO NOT PROCEED		
POSSIBLE	1 LOW	2 MODERATE	3 HIGH	4 ACUTE	4 ACUTE	3H HIGH	Review before work starts.		
UNLIKELY	1 LOW	1 LOW	2 MODERATE	3 HIGH	4 ACUTE	2M MODERATE	Ensure control measures in place.		
RARE	1 LOW	1 LOW	2 MODERATE	3 HIGH	3 HIGH	1L LOW	Monitor and keep records		

**Notes on Hierarchy of Controls:** 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.

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
1. Preparation	Risk of electrical shock from damaged cord, Risk of overexertion from lifting heavy drill	3H, 2M	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Conduct a pre-use inspection of the rotary hammer drill, checking for any visible damage to the cord, plug, and overall tool condition.</li> <li>- Use a cordless rotary hammer drill if available to eliminate the risk of electrical shock entirely.</li> <li>- Ensure that all power cords and extension leads are free from damage, cracks, or exposed wires before use.</li> <li>- Employ the use of residual current devices (RCDs) when operating electric drills to reduce the risk of electrical shock.</li> <li>- Provide training to workers on safe lifting techniques to prevent overexertion and related injuries when handling heavy drills.</li> <li>- Use mechanical lifts or team lifts for transporting heavy tools whenever practicable.</li> <li>- Position the workspace to minimise awkward postures and repetitive movements that could lead to musculoskeletal strain.</li> <li>- Verify that personal protective equipment such as safety gloves, strong footwear, and eye protection are worn at all times during preparation and operation.</li> <li>- Maintain clutter-free, well-organised workspaces to prevent tripping hazards and allow for smooth movement during lifting tasks.</li> <li>- Familiarise all operators with manufacturer's guidelines and comply with operational procedures specific to the rotary hammer drill being used.</li> <li>- Limit duration of use by switching operators or taking frequent breaks to prevent fatigue and overexertion.</li> <li>- Keep cords out of high traffic areas to prevent accidental trips and reduce strain caused by pulling or extended reach.</li> <li>- Implement regular maintenance schedules for all drills to ensure they function properly and safely, identifying potential risks before they're encountered.</li> </ul>	1L, 1L
2. Inspection	Injury due to defective parts, Noise hazards	2M, 1L	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Conduct a pre-use inspection of the rotary hammer drill to identify any visible damage or defects in cords, plugs, and moving parts.</li> <li>- Regularly maintain and test all rotary hammer drills according to the manufacturer's guidelines to ensure they remain in safe working condition.</li> <li>- Verify that the drill bit is secure and appropriate for the task to prevent malfunction or breakage during operation.</li> <li>- Use tools that have a current electrical test tag and are compliant with relevant Australian electrical safety standards.</li> </ul>	1L, 1L

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			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Provide hearing protection such as earplugs or earmuffs to all workers using or in proximity to the rotary hammer drill to mitigate exposure to noise above safe levels.</li> <li>- Implement a maintenance logbook to track all inspections, repairs, and servicing activities undertaken on each rotary hammer drill.</li> <li>- Train workers in recognising defects and hazards associated with rotary hammer drills and how to report these issues immediately to supervisors.</li> <li>- Position the workpiece securely and ensure a stable environment to minimise vibration and potential kick-back effects while drilling.</li> <li>- Ensure that Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) appropriate for rotary hammer drilling tasks, including safety glasses, gloves, and protective footwear, is worn at all times.</li> <li>- Establish a scheduled routine for inspecting noise levels in the workspace and adjust work practices if necessary to remain within recommended exposure limits.</li> </ul>	
3. Setting Up	Risk of falling objects, Risk of tripping over cords	3H, 2M	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Conduct site inspection to identify potential overhead hazards and ensure that all loose materials are secured to prevent risk of falling objects.</li> <li>- Use barricades or warning signs around the work area to establish a safe perimeter and alert others to hazards of falling objects.</li> <li>- Require all workers to wear appropriate personal protective equipment (PPE), including hard hats, safety boots, and high-visibility clothing.</li> <li>- Ensure that the rotary hammer drill is equipped with a secure cord management system to minimize the risk of tripping over cords.</li> <li>- Arrange power cords in a manner that places them away from high-traffic areas, using cable covers or mats where necessary.</li> <li>- Utilise cordless rotary hammer drills if feasible, to eliminate trip hazards associated with power cords.</li> <li>- Implement a housekeeping protocol to keep the work area clean and free of debris that could contribute to trips and falls.</li> <li>- Post clear signage indicating the location of cords and other potential trip hazards within the work area.</li> <li>- Schedule regular checks during operations to monitor for new hazards such as unintentional cord placement or unsecured tools.</li> <li>- Train all personnel on proper handling and storage of tools and equipment to prevent accidental drops and ensure items are properly tethered when used at height.</li> <li>- Designate a watchperson to oversee safety compliance during setup and throughout operations, providing immediate correction of unsafe practices.</li> </ul>	1L, 1L
4. Drilling Operation	Flying debris, Vibration hazards	4A, 3H	<div></div> <div></div>	2M, 1L



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6. Changing Bit	Hand injuries, Inadvertent operation of the drill	3H, 2M		1L, 1L
7. Maintenance	Electric shock, Cut and abrasion hazards	2M, 2M		1L, 1L

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			<div></div> <div></div> <div></div> <div></div> <div></div> <div></div>	
8. Breakdown Procedures	Electric shock, Handling of hot components	2M, 2M	<div></div> <div></div> <div></div> <div></div> <div></div> <div></div> <div></div> <div></div> <div></div> <div></div> <div></div>	1L, 1L
9. Drilling Overhead	Falling debris, Eye injuries	3H, 2M		1L, 1L



[illegible]



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12. Maintenance Records	Data security, Conflicting/incorrect data	1L, 1L		1L, 1L
13. Emergency Stop/Shutdown	Rapid decompression, Unexpected machine activation	3H, 3H		2M, 2M

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			<div></div> <div></div> <div></div> <div></div> <div></div> <div></div> <div></div> <div></div>	
14. Storage	Risk of fire, Misplacement of the drill	2M, 2M	<div></div> <div></div> <div></div> <div></div> <div></div> <div></div> <div></div> <div></div> <div></div> <div></div> <div></div> <div></div>	1L, 1L

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			[REDACTED]	
15. Drilling in enclosed spaces	Poor ventilation, Exposure to toxic materials	4A, 3H	[REDACTED]	2M, 1L
16. Disposal of waste	Environmental contamination, Fire hazards	2M, 2M	[REDACTED]	1L, 1L

[illegible]

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18. Training Sessions	Inadequate training, Miscommunication	2M, 2M	<div>SAMPLE</div> <div>[REDACTED]</div> <div>[REDACTED]</div> <div>[REDACTED]</div> <div>[REDACTED]</div> <div>[REDACTED]</div> <div>[REDACTED]</div> <div>[REDACTED]</div> <div>[REDACTED]</div> <div>[REDACTED]</div> <div>[REDACTED]</div> <div>[REDACTED]</div> <div>[REDACTED]</div> <div>[REDACTED]</div> <div>[REDACTED]</div> <div>[REDACTED]</div> <div>[REDACTED]</div> <div>[REDACTED]</div> <div>[REDACTED]</div> <div>[REDACTED]</div> <div>[REDACTED]</div>	1L, 1L
19. Manual Handling	Musculoskeletal injuries, Slips and falls	3H, 3H	<div>[REDACTED]</div> <div>[REDACTED]</div> <div>[REDACTED]</div> <div>[REDACTED]</div>	2M, 2M

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			<div>SAMPLE</div> <div>[REDACTED]</div> <div>[REDACTED]</div> <div>[REDACTED]</div> <div>[REDACTED]</div> <div>[REDACTED]</div> <div>[REDACTED]</div> <div>[REDACTED]</div> <div>[REDACTED]</div> <div>[REDACTED]</div>	
20. Use of Personal Protective Equipment	Inappropriate PPE, Damage to PPE	2M, 2M	<div>SAMPLE</div> <div>[REDACTED]</div> <div>[REDACTED]</div> <div>[REDACTED]</div> <div>[REDACTED]</div> <div>[REDACTED]</div> <div>[REDACTED]</div> <div>[REDACTED]</div> <div>[REDACTED]</div> <div>[REDACTED]</div>	1L, 1L



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			<div></div> <div></div> <div></div> <div></div>	

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 THAT ARE 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>

### New South Wales

Work Health and Safety Act 2011

Work Health and Safety Regulations 2017

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>

### Northern Territory

Work Health and Safety (National Uniform Legislation) Act 2011

Work Health and Safety (National Uniform Legislation) Regulations 2011

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

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

### 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.

### 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>

### 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>

### 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

## 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 as 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"/>	
<b>REVIEWED BY</b>		<b>DATE REVIEWED</b>
<b>SIGNATURE</b>		<b>DATE COMPLETED</b>