

# New rules for construction in Greater Sydney come into effect this weekend

The [latest health orders](#) have just been published, outlining the updated rules for construction, to come into effect from tomorrow Saturday 31 July 2021.

## Which building sites can reopen?

The new order removes the current requirement to the close construction sites, meaning all construction work on unoccupied premises (including civil works and new builds) may resume from 31 July 2021 subject to COVID safe measures being in place.

Occupied residential building and renovation sites in Greater Sydney may reopen from Saturday 31<sup>st</sup> of July with exception to the sites located within the 8 local government areas that are subject to strict lockdown conditions.

Building sites that are permitted to be open will need to meet new health and safety requirements and have a COVID safety plan in place.

## The restrictions for construction and renovation work on unoccupied sites in Greater Sydney:

- There is a cap of 25 people or 1 person per 4 square metre (whichever is greater) on construction sites.
- Construction site must have and comply with an approved COVID-19 Safety Plan, and have a copy of the Safety Plan available on site for inspection by any authorised compliance officers (including Police).

## The restrictions for construction and renovation work on occupied sites in Greater Sydney:

- In an outdoor area, no more than **five** persons can undertake work at the same time.
- In an indoor area, no more than **two** persons can undertake work at the same time, and
- if work is occurring in an indoor area on the premises, and residents are present at the premises, the residents must be in a separate room from the persons undertaking the work at all times.

## What additional restrictions apply for permitted home building and renovation work:

- Face masks are required to be worn when working in an outdoor area.
- Face masks are required in any indoor area of non-residential premises.
- Face masks are required in an indoor area on common property for residential premises.

However, there is an exemption from this requirement if the nature of the work makes the wearing of a face mask a risk to your or another persons' health and safety, or where clear enunciation or visibility of your mouth is essential.

## Can construction continue in the eight restricted LGAs?

Construction sites within eight restricted Local Government Areas (**LGAs**) must remain closed and workers who live within those LGAs are not permitted to leave their LGA to undertake building work.

The affected LGAs are:

- City of Blacktown,
- City of Campbelltown,
- Canterbury-Bankstown,
- Cumberland,
- City of Fairfield,
- Georges River,
- City of Liverpool, and
- City of Parramatta.

Urgent works in these LGAs are still permitted where the work is

- to ensure the health, safety or security of the site or persons residing at the site, or
- because of an emergency.

Work is also permitted where it is

- for the installation, maintenance or repair of an essential utility, including a water, gas, electricity, internet, television or telecommunications service, or
- for fire protection and safety.

If cleaning, repairs or maintenance is required for the purposes of leasing or selling a premises in the 8 restricted LGAs then it can only be done so while the site is unoccupied.

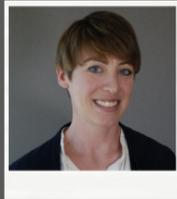
The new rules can be tricky to understand, and the situation is constantly evolving. What is being announced and reported does not always mirror what is in the final public health orders, which form the laws in place.

If you need any assistance in understanding how the current rules might apply to your project, get in touch!



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