# Checklist – Construction site security

## Scope

This checklist is a tool to assist duty holders, including persons with management or control of a workplace involved in the construction industry to manage their site security duties under work health and safety (WHS) laws. The checklist can be applied to construction, demolition, renovation and extension sites. It highlights relevant considerations for these tasks but does not cover all WHS requirements.

## Checklist for construction site security

| **Site security requirements – risk assessment considerations** | |
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|  | The risks to health and safety on the site have been assessed, including:   * excavations and holes * accessible utilities and services * slipping and tripping hazards * hazardous materials/chemicals * opportunities for climbing and falls from height * loose items and materials * accessible plants and tools * other hazards |
|  | The likelihood of unauthorised access has been assessed, including the site proximity to:   * schools and childcare facilities * entertainment and recreation facilities * shopping centres * public transport stops and stations * pedestrian traffic routes or areas * other public places and facilities |
|  | It is reasonably practicable to provide a site fence |
|  | There are other appropriate site security measures, in addition or as an alternative to a site fence, including the:   * hazards isolated by fencing a smaller area * building secured to prevent access to all hazards located internally |
|  | The current site security measures are regularly reviewed |

| **Fencing – temporary or permanent** | |
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|  | Fence encloses the entire building site |
|  | Fencing is a suitable height to discourage scaling |
|  | Fence is adequate to prevent access to the site by:   * crawling under the fence * scaling the fence * moving fence panels |
|  | Fence is installed in line with the instructions of the designer, manufacturer and installer, including:   * fence panels have base supports that are positioned correctly * brackets or clamps are used to secure panels together * the fence is not weakened at the joints |
|  | Fence is complete, with no gaps or openings that could allow access |
|  | Fence does not have footholds or large mesh that allows climbing |
|  | Pallets and other items that can be climbed are not stored near the fence |
|  | Fencing can withstand anticipated loads including wind |
|  | Gates are sturdy, can be locked, provide adequate security and cannot be opened enough to allow a child to slip through |
|  | Star pickets and sharp posts are capped |
|  | Fire-retardant mesh is used if required |

| **Hazards managed before leaving site unattended** | |
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|  | Workers secure the site or their work area against unauthorised access before they leave the site |
|  | Chemicals are stored safely |
|  | Excavations are covered or barricaded to prevent falls |
|  | Ladders are removed or positioned horizontally to prevent access to heights |
|  | Voids and penetrations are covered or isolated |
|  | Plant has been removed where practicable, or secured and stored:   * de-energised to prevent movement (e.g. moving parts lowered to ground level) * with the keys removed and stored in a safe place * according to the manufacturer’s instructions * with access doors closed and locked * with adequate security screens |
|  | Tower cranes are secured with:   * access restricted at all access points * suspended loads and lifting chains are removed and secured * the lifting hook raised and secured * keys removed and stored in a safe place * the cabin door closed and locked (a mesh plate or barrier over the glass may be necessary in high-risk areas) * the crane in slew mode (following manufacturer’s instructions) to allow movement in high wind conditions |
|  | Scaffolding is secure, with:   * loose material removed and stored securely * planks adequately secured to prevent uplift from high winds * ties adequately positioned and secured, as per the scaffold design/plan, to prevent movement * mesh and shade cloth adequately secured and fixed to minimise resistance in high wind conditions |
|  | Traffic control measures align to the traffic control plan when the site is closed, and may include:   * adequate water/concrete barriers installed and secured * traffic signage * if required, road plates with non-slip surface are provided and secured * ensuring footpaths are clear to prevent people walking on the road |

| **Signage** | |
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|  | Signage warns potential intruders of site security measures and hazards |
|  | Signage includes phone number/s in case emergency services need to access the site |
|  | A sign is displayed in line with [Building and Energy’s requirements](https://www.commerce.wa.gov.au/building-and-energy/signage) if the work is undertaken by a registered builder. The sign must:   * be legible * be displayed in a prominent position on the site * be clearly visible to members of the public outside the site * contain the name and registration number of the building contractor and nominated supervisor   contain the contact phone number of the building contractor |

## Further information

WorkSafe, Department of Mines, Industry Regulation and Safety

* [*Code of practice: Construction work*](https://www.commerce.wa.gov.au/publications/code-practice-construction-work)
* [*Code of practice: Demolition work*](https://www.commerce.wa.gov.au/publications/code-practice-demolition-work)
* [*Code of practice: Managing risks of plant in the workplace*](https://www.commerce.wa.gov.au/publications/code-practice-managing-risks-plant-workplace)

Building and Energy, Department of Mines, Industry Regulation and Safety

* [Signage](https://www.commerce.wa.gov.au/building-and-energy/signage)