



NEW YORK STATE BUILDERS ASSOCIATION, INC

Lewis Dubuque | Executive Vice President

Kristin Savard | President

Protocols For The Residential Construction Industry

All contractors have a general obligation to keep a safe and healthy worksite in accordance with state and federal law. Failure to follow these requirements will be considered a violation of these duties and be penalized accordingly.

All contractors are also required to comply with the following COVID-19 worksite-specific safety practices:

COVID-19 Site Supervisor

1. The contractor and any subcontractor shall be responsible to monitor the health of their employees and enforce the COVID-19 job site safety plan.

COVID-19 Safety Training

2. A Safety Stand-Down/toolbox talk/tailgate training must be conducted on all job sites on the first day of returning to work, and each time a new subcontractor enters the jobsite to explain the protective measures in place for all workers detailing personal, tool and jobsite sanitization requirements, use of personal protection equipment, stay at home when sick policy and social distancing requirements. Employer and employee responsibility to maintain protocols for both worker and public health should be emphasized
3. Attendance will be communicated verbally and the trainer will sign in each attendee.
4. COVID-19 safety requirements shall be visibly posted on each job site.

Social Distancing

5. Social distancing of at least 6 feet of separation must be maintained by every person on the worksite at all times.
6. Gatherings of any size must be precluded by taking breaks and lunch in shifts. Any time two or more persons must meet, ensure minimum 6 feet of separation.
7. Identify “choke points” and “high-risk areas” on job sites where workers typically congregate and control them so social distancing is always maintained, erect barriers for additional protective measure such as plastic sheeting.
8. Minimize interactions when picking up or delivering equipment or materials to the jobsite, ensure minimum 6-foot separation.

9. To the extent practical allow only one trade/subcontractor at a time on a job site and maintain 6-foot separation social distancing for each member of that trade. Stagger schedules for job functions that put workers close together. Workers that perform job functions that are in close proximity can have different shifts.

Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) – Employer Provided

10. Provide personal protective equipment (PPE) such as gloves, goggles, face shields and face masks as appropriate, or required, for the activity being performed.

11. Masks must be worn at all times by every employee on the worksite when working in a finished house. Masks should also be worn in situations where social distance is breached.

12. Eye protection must be worn at all times by every employee while on worksite when required by OSHA.

13. Gloves must be worn when deemed appropriate by OSHA by every employee while on worksite. The type of glove worn should be appropriate to the task. If gloves are not typically required for the task, then any type of glove is acceptable, including latex gloves.

Sanitation and Cleanliness

14. Soap and water or hand sanitizers with 70% alcohol shall be provided on all job sites for frequent hand washing. Workers should be encouraged to wash their hands regularly after an operation, before and after going to the bathroom, before and after eating and after coughing, sneezing or blowing their nose.

15. Post hygienic recommendations by the U.S. Centers for Disease Control (CDC).

16. Frequently clean and disinfect shared tools, machines, vehicles and other equipment, handrails, doorknobs, and portable toilets. Discourage workers from using other workers tools.

17. If an employee reports feeling sick and goes home, the area where that person worked should be immediately disinfected.

Employee Health/Symptoms

18. Take temperatures using a no contact thermometer before letting workers on the jobsite. Encourage workers to stay home or leave the worksite when feeling sick or when they have been in close contact with a confirmed positive case. If they develop symptoms of acute respiratory illness, they must seek medical attention and inform their employer.

19. Have employees inform their supervisors if they have sick family member at home with COVID-19.

20. Ask workers to self-identify symptoms of fever, coughing, or shortness of breath each day, before the shift, mid-shift, and at home.

21. If employees have symptoms of acute respiratory illness (i.e. fever, cough, shortness of breath), they must stay home and not come to work until free of symptoms for at least 72 hours, without the use of medicine, as recommended by the CDC.

22. Failure of employees to comply will result in employees being sent home during the emergency actions.

23. Employees who do not believe it is safe to work shall be allowed to remove themselves from the worksite and employers must follow the expanded family and medical leave requirements included in the Families First Coronavirus Response Act.

24. Any worker coming to work on a construction site in New York from any state that is not contiguous to New York must self-quarantine for 14 days to become eligible to work on a job site in New York.

25. If an employee is confirmed to have COVID-19 infection, employers should inform fellow employees of their possible exposure to COVID-19 in the workplace but maintain confidentiality as required by the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA). The employer should instruct fellow employees about how to proceed based on the CDC Public Health Recommendations for Community-Related Exposure.

Job Site Visitors

26. During work hours the jobsite shall not be open to visitors and access shall be limited to scheduled workers including those involved in material delivery and building code officials but is closed to the general public. This prohibition is intended to limit the public risk exposure and to keep the workers in a reduced risk of exposure.