

## Roof repair work

### What you need to know as a busy builder

Want to stay on top as a roof worker on a busy building site?

These are the essential health and safety top tips you should follow, even if you don't directly employ the people working on your site.

Almost all domestic roof work needs scaffolding – fit edge protection to stop people and materials from falling from eaves and gable ends.

- On terraced properties make sure you provide scaffolding at the front and back of the property.
- Use scaffolding around chimneys and roof windows.
- Do not throw materials from the roof or the scaffold ('bombing') – use a chute or similar.
- Stop materials falling onto the street, and people – for example, use debris netting sheeting and/or close fitting scaffold boards.
- Keep people away from the area below the roof work.
- Do not go onto fragile roof surfaces such as cement sheets or those with skylights. Work from underneath, reach from an access platform or cover fragile areas on the roof.
- Ladders can be used to access the workplace but **working** from ladders is allowed only as a last resort.
- Make sure your roof workers are properly trained and competent to do the work safely

### What can happen if health and safety is ignored?

*A 20-year-old worker repairing a factory roof fell through a skylight and died. His employer had provided only two crawling boards and had not trained him properly.*

*The company owner was convicted of manslaughter and health and safety offences, sentenced to 12 months in prison and banned from being a company director for three years.*

### Examples of good practice

Sourced from the Health and Safety Executive

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