

How are we injuring ourselves at work?



ROOFERS

These statistics are specific to claims with the given occupation of 'roofer' and do not include homeowner/DIY claims.

TOTAL DAYS LOST TO INJURY IN 2014:

20,914



COST TO BUSINESS FOR INJURY IN 2014:

\$5m+



NUMBER OF CLAIMS IN 2014:

1,049



COST OF ACTIVE CLAIMS TO ACC IN 2014:

\$3.4m+



Where it's hurting us

UPPER AND LOWER ARM

NUMBER OF CLAIMS: 76

INJURY COST: \$374,454

DAYS LOST: 2,114

"While lifting a sheet of roofing iron the sharp edge of the roofing iron lacerated my arm which is now infected."

HAND/WRIST

NUMBER OF CLAIMS: 93

INJURY COST: \$135,872

DAYS LOST: 1,072

"I was working to join two metal gutters together and the metal slipped and jagged on my left hand causing laceration."

FINGER/THUMB

NUMBER OF CLAIMS: 150

INJURY COST: \$119,695

DAYS LOST: 1,037

"I was screwing roofing iron on with a battery powered driver, the screw went through the iron into end of my finger."



SHOULDER/CLAVICLE

NUMBER OF CLAIMS: 59

INJURY COST: \$546,342

DAYS LOST: 4,699

"I was carrying a heavy load on my right shoulder and I slipped down a wet mossy surface and landed on my left shoulder."

LOWER BACK/SPINE

NUMBER OF CLAIMS: 163

INJURY COST: \$593,564

DAYS LOST: 3,904

"I was lifting roofing materials, felt a sudden pain in my back as I twisted."

KNEE

NUMBER OF CLAIMS: 63

INJURY COST: \$100,477

DAYS LOST: 506

"I damaged my knee lifting 7.5 metre sheets of corrugated iron up to the second story of a house."

TOP 5 INJURY SITES BY NUMBER

- 1) Lower back/spine
- 2) Finger/thumb
- 3) Hand/wrist
- 4) Upper and lower arm
- 5) Knee

145

TOP 5 INJURY SITES BY COST

- 1) Lower back/spine
- 2) Shoulder (incl clavicle/blade)
- 3) Upper and lower arm
- 4) Hand/wrist
- 5) Finger/thumb

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Cost of active claims to ACC

The total includes the cost (excl GST) to ACC of all treatment and entitlements incurred for that claim.

Cost of injury claims to business

The total cost to business is based on the average salary of roofers (derived from Occupation Outlook Report, MBIE 2013) by the number of working days

in 2014, this was used to calculate the average daily salary for the occupation. The number of days of productivity lost to injury was multiplied by this figure to identify the cost of injury claims to business.

How we calculated this information (using 2014 data)

Remember a tidy worksite is a safe worksite

High risk areas

- When working at a height use the appropriate scaffolding or falls protection to prevent workers from a fall.
- Overreaching when carrying out your work is one of the major contributions to a person overloading shoulder and muscles in the back region.
- When using any type of power tool remember to wear hearing and eye protection.
- If you are required to lift or carry a heavy object or materials then remember the old saying 'many hands make light work'.
- Think before you act.

How do you reduce your risk?

It's easy to reduce your risk of injury, just follow these simple tips to help keep yourself and your workmates safe on the job.

UPPER AND LOWER ARM

- When handling roofing iron wear long sleeved clothing and gloves.
- If you are required to lift or move large sheets of roofing iron ask a mate to help. Remember the old saying 'many hands make light work'.



SHOULDER

- Avoid any activities where you are overreaching.
- Avoid sudden uncontrolled or jerky movements.

BACK/SPINE

- Avoid lifting and carrying heavy or awkward materials: if you have to lift or carry it get a mate to help.
- Avoid twisting when carrying or lifting a heavy load.
- Reduce the amount of bending, reaching forward and twisting loads.
- Use mechanical load shifting devices such as cranes, hoist and hand trucks to move materials around the worksite.
- Fit temporary lifting points or handles to heavy or awkward loads.
- If manual lifting is required, make sure you have enough workers available to complete the task.



KNEE

- Wear knee pads when you are required to kneel on the ground as this reduces the contact pressure.
- Avoid jumping down from step ladders, ladders and platforms or down to the next level.



FINGER/THUMB

- Check that all tool guards function correctly and are safe to use.
- When using an electric drill be aware of the dangers of applying too much pressure and jamming the drill.
- Keep your hands clear of any moving parts.
- Make sure that any exposed nails and other sharp objects are removed or knocked in.
- Safety gloves should be worn when handling sharp metal products.

Other ways to reduce the likelihood of risk

- Remove unwanted materials and construction waste from the worksite so that it does not accumulate.
- Ensure that all power leads and other tools and equipment are positioned so as not to cause a tripping hazard.
- Avoid attaching bracing across door frames where people are likely to walk through.