Safe Work Method Statement

Abrasive Blasting

PCBU:	Robertson's Remedial and Painting Pty Ltd 10/56 Buffalo Road, Gladesville NSW 2111 Phone: (02) 9181 3519 ABN: 16 140 746 247	**Site address:**	[Insert Site Address Here]
Project Manager:	■ **[Insert Project Manager Name Here]**	**Date SWMS provided to PC:**	19-Mar-26
Work activity:	Abrasive Blasting	**Principal Contractor (PC):**	[Insert Principal Contractor (PC) Here]

High Risk Construction Work (HRCW): ☑ **Risk of a person falling more than 2 metres** ☐ Likely to involve disturbing asbestos ☐ Work in or near a shaft or trench deeper than 1.5 m or a tunnel ☐ Work on or near chemical, fuel or refrigerant lines ☐ Tilt-up or precast concrete elements ☐ Work on a telecommunication tower ☐ Temporary load-bearing support for structural alterations or repairs ☐ Use of explosives ☐ Work on or near energised electrical installations or services ☐ Work on, in or adjacent to a road, railway, shipping lane or other traffic corridor in use by traffic other than pedestrians ☐ Demolition of load-bearing structure ☐ Work in or near a confined space ☐ Work on or near pressurised gas mains or piping ☐ Work in an area that may have a contaminated or flammable atmosphere ☑ **Work in an area with movement of powered mobile plant** ☐ Work in areas with artificial extremes of temperature ☐ Work in or near water or other liquid that involves a risk of drowning ☐ Diving work

Person responsible for ensuring compliance with SWMS:	■ **[Insert Supervisor Name Here]**	**Date SWMS received:**	19-Mar-26
What measures are in place to ensure compliance with the SWMS?	Toolbox meetings, SWMS sign off, job observations and supervision review. If issues with the SWMS or new hazards are identified, the supervisor must be notified. When changes are made to SWMS, it will be communicated to all workers.		
Person responsible for reviewing SWMS control measures:	■ **[Insert Project Manager Name Here]**	**Date SWMS received by reviewer:**	19-Mar-26
How will the SWMS control measures be reviewed?	The control measures implemented will be reviewed and if necessary, revised annually or if work methods change, the control measures are not effective in controlling the risk, a new hazard/risk is identified or following an incident. The SWMS will be reviewed in consultation with workers and/or others who may be affected by the SWMS. Any changes to the SWMS will be communicated with workers at induction, daily pre-starts and toolbox talks.		
Reviewer's signature:	■ **[Insert Project Manager Name Here]**	**Review date:**	19-Mar-26

This SWMS must be kept and be available for inspection until the high-risk construction work to which this SWMS relates is completed. If the SWMS is revised, all versions should be kept. If a notifiable incident occurs in relation to the high-risk construction work in this SWMS, the SWMS must be kept for at least 2 years from the date of the notifiable incident.

PRE-REQUISITES TABLE

Must be in place before starting work			
PPE — All Persons on Site	• Steel-capped footwear (AS/NZS 2210) • Hi-vis vest or long sleeves • Safety glasses (AS/NZS 1337.1) • Hearing protection Class 5 (AS/NZS 1270) — all blast zones • Leather gloves — blasting; nitrile — chemical handling	**Additional PPE**	• Full body harness + double lanyard (AS/NZS 1891.1) • Hard hat (AS/NZS 1801) • Sun protection SPF 50+
Licences / Qualifications	• White Card (all workers) • EWP Licence WP class (if EWP used) • Scaffolding HRW Licence — erect/modify/dismantle • Working at Heights — current within 2 years (WAH workers) • Competence in abrasive blasting operations	**Permits & Approvals**	• Confined Space Entry Permit (enclosed blasting in confined space) • Hot Work Permit (if applicable) • [Insert site-specific permits here]
Plant & Equipment	• Blast pot — current registration and inspection certificate (WHS Reg Ch. 5) • Air compressor — capacity matched to nozzle; maintenance log current • Blast hoses — whip checks on all connections; inspected before each use • Dead-man control fitted to nozzle — tested functional before each use • Pressure relief valve — set and confirmed operational • Moisture separator and air dryer — in line • LEL atmospheric monitor (calibrated) — enclosed blasting • EWP (if used) — current PSV; pre-use inspection completed • Spill kit (110% of largest container), first aid kit, ABE extinguisher on site	**Hazardous Substances**	• Blast media — confirmed silica-free; SDS on site before use (WHS Reg r.475 prohibits crystalline silica as blast agent) • Existing coatings — tested for lead, asbestos, chromium before blasting • Paint products — SDS on site for all products; workers briefed before first use • Hazardous Substances Register current
Consultation	Workers consulted per NSW WHS Regulation r.299(3) and r.300(2). SWMS reviewed with all workers before work commences — workers sign before starting.	**Legislative Basis**	WHS Act 2011 (NSW) | WHS Regulation 2017 (NSW) rr.291–302, r.475, Ch.4 (Confined Spaces), Ch.5 (Plant), Ch.7 Pt 7.2 (Lead) | Code of Practice: Abrasive Blasting | Code of Practice: Managing the Risk of Falls in Housing Construction | Code of Practice: Managing Noise and Preventing Hearing Loss at Work | Code of Practice: Confined Spaces | Code of Practice: Hazardous Manual Tasks | AS 4361.2 Lead Paint Management — Industrial | AS/NZS 3760 In-Service Safety Inspection and Testing

Brief Description: Master SWMS for abrasive blasting surface preparation and coating on residential and commercial structures. Covers site administration, high access, blast equipment commissioning, open-air blasting, enclosed blasting, lead/hazardous coating removal, and media, containment, and waste management. HRCW: fall >2m; powered mobile plant.

STEP-BY-STEP SAFE WORK METHOD TABLE

	Task		Risk (Pre)	Controls	Risk (Post)	Responsibility	CCVS Code
1	**Site administration — induction, emergency, public exclusion**	• Uninducted worker — uncontrolled hazard exposure • Public or resident in blast exclusion zone • Injection or medical emergency — delayed response	**Low (1)**	**Admin:** • Daily Sign-In, White Card check, SWMS sign-off — all workers before starting • Residents notified 48 hrs before blasting; 10m exclusion zone barricaded • Emergency plan at site entry; assembly point communicated at induction • Injection injury: do not apply pressure — hospital with hand surgery capability immediately • Notifiable incidents reported to SafeWork NSW per WHS Act s.38	**Low (1)**	• SUP — verify induction, sign-in, exclusion zone before work starts • WKR — SWMS signed; exclusion zone confirmed each day	**STOP-WORK TRIGGER** • Worker not inducted or no White Card • Public enters exclusion zone • Emergency — all work ceases until declared safe **RISK CODE: SYS-L1**

	Task		Risk (Pre)	Controls	Risk (Post)	Responsibility	CCVS Code
2	**High access — EWP, scaffold, and ladder**	• Fall from EWP, scaffold, or ladder • EWP tip-over — ground failure or overload • Scaffold collapse — design failure or uninspected • Falling objects striking persons below	**High (3)**	**Engineering:** • EWP: harness to anchor point; exclusion zone barricaded; min 3m from powerlines (6m >132kV) • Scaffold: full guardrails (top/mid) and toe boards; green tag at each access point • Ladders: AS/NZS 1892 industrial rated; 4:1 angle; short-duration only **Admin:** • EWP: WP licence recorded; pre-start signed; firm ground; wind within manufacturer spec • Scaffold: competent person inspection before first use and after modification or severe weather • Ladders: WAH RA confirms EWP/scaffold not practicable (CoP: Managing Risk of Falls) • Drop zone controlled below all elevated work	**Low (1)**	• SUP — sight licences; verify pre-starts; confirm tags and anchor points • WKR — harness connected; exclusion zone clear; pre-start signed before ascending	**HOLD POINT 2** 1. EWP WP licence recorded; pre-start signed; powerline clearances confirmed 2. Scaffold green tag at each access point; competent person inspection signed 3. Ladder WAH RA completed; higher-order control ruled out **STOP-WORK TRIGGER** • EWP defect or ground unstable • Scaffold tag missing or guardrails incomplete • Harness not connected at height • Powerline clearance not maintained **RISK CODE: WAH-H3**

	Task		Risk (Pre)	Controls	Risk (Post)	Responsibility	CCVS Code
3	**Blast equipment — setup and commissioning**	• Hose whip — coupling failure under pressure • Pressure vessel failure — blast pot • Uncontrolled blast — dead-man malfunction • Static discharge — unearthed metallic components	**High (3)**	**Engineering:** • Whip checks on all hose connections; safety pins/clips on all couplings • Pressure relief valve — set to operating pressure; tested before pressurising • Dead-man — blast stops within 1 second; tested before each use • Earthing/bonding — all metallic components; moisture separator and air dryer in line **Admin:** • Blast pot registration and inspection cert current (WHS Reg Ch.5) — sighted before use • Hoses inspected full length — no damage, kinks, or wear; nozzle bore checked • Blast media SDS on site — confirmed silica-free before loading (WHS Reg r.475)	**Low (1)**	• SUP — sight registration cert; confirm dead-man and PRV functional • BLASTER — whip checks fitted; media SDS sighted; earthing confirmed	**HOLD POINT 3** 1. Blast pot registration current and sighted 2. All whip checks fitted — dead-man tested functional 3. Blast media confirmed silica-free; SDS on site **STOP-WORK TRIGGER** • Blast pot registration expired • Dead-man not functional • Whip check missing from any connection • Silica media identified **RISK CODE: PRE-H3**

	Task		Risk (Pre)	Controls	Risk (Post)	Responsibility	CCVS Code
4	**Abrasive blasting — open-air operations**	• Respirable dust — inhalation without respiratory protection • Ricochet — high-velocity particles at face and body • Noise exceeding 115 dB(A) at blast zone • Asbestos in existing coating — released by blasting	**High (3)**	**Engineering:** • Blast containment (tarps or enclosure) — sealed at all joints; 10m exclusion zone barricaded • Wet blasting (vapour) where practicable — reduces airborne dust **Admin:** • Existing coating tested for asbestos, lead, chromium before blasting (CoP: Abrasive Blasting) • Competent person supervises all blasting (CoP: Abrasive Blasting) • Blast times within council/permit hours — typically 7am–5pm • Post-blast profile checked with comparator gauge; coat within flash-rust window	**Low (1)**	• SUP — verify containment, exclusion zone, and substrate assessment before blasting • BLASTER — PPE donned; exclusion zone clear before commencing	**HOLD POINT 4** 1. Substrate assessed — no asbestos before blasting commences 2. Blast containment erected and sealed; competent person on site **STOP-WORK TRIGGER** • Asbestos detected in coating — cease immediately • Silica media identified • Dust escaping containment • Wind exceeds containment capability **RISK CODE: SIL-H3**

	Task		Risk (Pre)	Controls	Risk (Post)	Responsibility	CCVS Code
5	**Abrasive blasting — enclosed and confined space**	• Extreme dust concentration — zero visibility • Oxygen depletion — enclosed space • Air supply failure — blaster incapacitated • Heat stress inside blast suit	**High (3)**	**Engineering:** • Extraction ventilation with HEPA filtration — negative pressure maintained; min 20 ACH • Emergency air supply — minimum 10 min reserve • LEL monitor active; lighting rated for hazardous atmosphere **Admin:** • Confined space entry permit in place per WHS Reg Ch.4 (CoP: Confined Spaces) • Standby person at entry point at all times — communication tested before entry • Cease blasting if visibility <1m — allow dust to settle before resuming • Max continuous blast time enforced — work/rest rotation for heat stress	**Low (1)**	• SUP — confirm ventilation running, permit current, standby person in position • BLASTER — air supply confirmed; communication tested before entry	**HOLD POINT 5** 1. Confined space entry permit current 2. Ventilation confirmed operational — negative pressure maintained 3. Standby person in position; communication tested **STOP-WORK TRIGGER** • Ventilation fails or positive pressure detected • Air supply alarm or quality fault • Standby person leaves position • Confined space permit not current **RISK CODE: HAZ-H3**

	Task		Risk (Pre)	Controls	Risk (Post)	Responsibility	CCVS Code
6	**Lead paint and hazardous coating removal**	• Lead dust inhalation and skin contamination • Lead take-home contamination — family exposure • Asbestos co-contamination in aged coatings • Hazardous waste — incorrect disposal	**High (3)**	**Engineering:** • Full Class 1 containment — negative pressure min 4 Pa; HEPA filtration (AS 4361.2) • Three-stage decontamination shower at enclosure exit — mandatory before leaving • Water injection at nozzle supplementary to containment **Admin:** • Lead RA completed per WHS Reg Ch.7 Pt 7.2 — lead content quantified by lab analysis • Blood lead baseline for all workers before commencement — >20 µg/dL reviewed by medical practitioner • Waste: double-bagged, labelled, licensed facility; EPA tracking manifest • Work clothes not worn home; laundry service provided; clearance monitoring before dismantling enclosure	**Low (1)**	• SUP / OCC HYG — confirm containment at negative pressure; decon facility operational • BLASTER — decontamination procedure followed before leaving containment	**HOLD POINT 6** 1. Lead RA and lab analysis completed before commencement 2. Containment at negative pressure — HEPA filtration operational 3. Decontamination facility operational; blood lead baseline on file **STOP-WORK TRIGGER** • Containment pressure loss • Air monitoring exceeds WES • Decontamination facility not functional • Asbestos detected in coating — cease immediately **RISK CODE: HAZ-H3**

	Task		Risk (Pre)	Controls	Risk (Post)	Responsibility	CCVS Code
7	**Air monitoring, media handling, and waste**	• Dust exposure exceeding WES — personal or boundary • Contaminated recycled media — lead or asbestos • Stormwater contamination — blast waste and wash-off • Manual handling — media bags 25–50 kg	**Medium (2)**	**Engineering:** • Stormwater: bunding at blast area; drain covers within 10m; waste captured within containment • Mechanical lifting for bags >25 kg; hopper or silo feed preferred **Admin:** • Air monitoring plan by occupational hygienist — personal and boundary monitoring (CoP: Abrasive Blasting) • WES: respirable dust 1 mg/m^3, lead 0.05 mg/m^3, silica 0.05 mg/m^3 (8hr TWA) • Results reviewed same-day — exceedance triggers cessation and control review • Recycled media tested for contamination before re-use; waste manifest maintained to disposal	**Low (1)**	• SUP / OCC HYG — develop monitoring plan; review results same-day; manage waste manifest • WKR — containment intact; drains protected; media SDS sighted each shift	**HOLD POINT 7** 1. Air monitoring plan in place — hygienist specified 2. Baseline coating analysis completed before blasting — results reviewed **STOP-WORK TRIGGER** • Boundary monitoring exceeds criteria • Containment breach — dust visible outside • Stormwater contamination not controlled **RISK CODE: ENV-M2**

CCVS TABLE

Task	Critical Control	Who Checks	How Often	What They Look For
Equipment commissioning (Step 3)	Blast pot registration current; all whip checks fitted; dead-man tested functional; PRV set	Supervisor	Before each shift	Registration cert on file; whip checks on all connections; dead-man and PRV test on pre-start
Silica-free media check (Steps 3–4)	Blast media SDS on site — confirmed free of crystalline silica before loading (WHS Reg r.475)	Supervisor	Every new media batch	SDS current; silica nil confirmed; batch recorded in site register
Substrate hazardous coating check (Step 4)	Existing coating tested for asbestos, lead, and chromium before blasting any new surface type	Supervisor / Occupational Hygienist	Before blasting on any new surface type	Lab results or asbestos register review on file before first blast
Enclosed blasting — ventilation and confined space (Step 5)	Negative pressure confirmed; confined space entry permit current; standby person in position	Supervisor	Before each enclosed blast session	Pressure gauge reading at min 4 Pa; permit signed; standby person confirmed and briefed
Lead removal — containment and decontamination (Step 6)	Class 1 containment at negative pressure; HEPA operational; decon shower functional before blasting	Supervisor / Occupational Hygienist	Before each lead blast session	Pressure log current; HEPA filter record; decon shower tested; blood lead baseline on file
Air monitoring — personal and boundary (Step 7)	Personal and boundary monitoring per hygienist plan; results reviewed same-day and actioned if above WES	Occupational Hygienist	During blasting — frequency per monitoring plan	Monitoring records signed and dated; results at or below WES; exceedances documented and closed
WAH pre-start (Step 2)	EWP WP licence confirmed; pre-start completed; scaffold green tag at each access point	Supervisor	Before each shift at height	Licence in Breadcrumb; pre-start signed; scaffold tag current and green

RISK RATING MATRIX — Consequence × Likelihood					
Risk Level	**Description of Consequence or Impact**	**Consequence**	**Unlikely (1)**	**Possible (2)**	**Almost Certain (3)**
HIGH	Actual/Potential fatality, disability or irreversible damage. Major structural failure. Off-site environmental discharge not contained, significant long-term environmental harm.	**Major (3)**	**Medium (3)**	**High (6)**	**High (9)**
MEDIUM	Actual/Potential temporary disability, MTI or LTI. Structural failure/damage, >1-day outage. On-site environmental discharge contained, minor remediation, short-term harm.	**Moderate (2)**	**Low (2)**	**Medium (4)**	**High (6)**
LOW	Incident requiring first aid. Environmental discharge immediately contained, minor clean-up, no short-term environmental harm.	**Minor (1)**	**Low (1)**	**Low (2)**	**Medium (3)**
Level	**Likelihood / Probability**				
Almost Certain (3)	Occurs frequently; >66% chance of occurring				
Possible (2)	Could happen occasionally; >33% but <66% chance of occurring				
Unlikely (1)	May occur only in exceptional circumstances; <33% chance of occurring				
Class / Ranking	**Description / Requirements**				
High 6, 9	STOP immediately. Implement controls. Controls recorded on a SWMS.				
Medium 3, 4	Planned control. Controls recorded on a SWMS.				
Low 1, 2	Managed via routine procedure.				
Note — WHS Act s.18 "reasonably practicable": Requires consideration of the likelihood of the risk, degree of harm, knowledge of the hazard, availability and suitability of controls, and cost vs. risk. If you cannot show how that decision was made, the action becomes harder to defend after an incident.					

WORKER SWMS INDUCTION SIGN-OFF

Date:	**Name:**	**Signature:**	I confirm I have read and understood this SWMS. I will verify that critical controls are in place prior to commencing high-risk tasks and will suspend work if controls are not established.
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If work methods, site conditions, or hazards change — stop, complete this table, re-brief all workers, obtain new sign-offs. Required under WHS Regulation r.300(3).

SWMS AMENDMENTS

Under WHS Act s18, "reasonably practicable" requires consideration of likelihood of risk, degree of harm, what the person knows about the hazard, availability and suitability of controls, cost vs risk. If you cannot show how that decision was made, the action becomes harder to defend after an incident.

Date	Work Activity / Task	Hazard / Risk	Risk Rating (Pre)	Controls — Hierarchy of Control	Risk Rating (Post)	Responsible

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