

TRADE NEWSLETTER

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January 2026



UBS Highlight

UBS continues to operate as an ISO-accredited builder, maintaining the highest standards for Environmental, Quality, and Safety procedures.

January 2026

Welcome to 2026! In this month's issue, we highlight our recent successful rectification work at the Peninsula Aquatic Recreation Centre (PARC) in Frankston. 

Check out our safety update on manual handling tips , along with important DOCs system reminders  for smooth document submission.

Stay informed with the latest regulatory updates for both Victoria and Queensland .

Don't miss the Trade Spotlight , featuring our team's collaboration on challenging projects!



"Safety first is safety always."
— Charles Melville Hays

Safer manual handling for carpenters

Lifting, carrying or putting down objects in the wrong way can cause injury.

Carpenters are a high-risk group for these injuries, called musculoskeletal disorders (MSDs). These tips can help your employees work safely on site.

10 tips for manual handling



1. Plan ahead

Create a plan for the job to avoid double handling of materials and awkward access points. Deliver materials as close to the job as possible.



2. Identify manual handling tasks

Identify manual handling tasks early. Think about the best way to eliminate or reduce the risk of injury before starting these tasks. For example, making sure you have help when lifting awkward or heavy loads.



3. Choose smarter tools and materials

Choose lightweight and ergonomic tools and materials. Lighten your tool belt as much as possible.



4. Mix up your tasks

Try alternating tasks throughout the day to mix up physical positions.



5. Get work up off the ground

Use a raised surface or portable bench for tasks where possible.



6. Limit overhead work

Avoid working with your arms above your head if you can. Use ladders, work platforms and scaffolding to get your body closer to your work.



7. Use a trolley

Use a trolley to move materials around site instead of carrying them. Trolleys can also keep your gear in one place, and give you a raised working surface.



8. Take breaks and stretch

Regularly rest, stretch and straighten up if you're working in awkward positions.



9. Use equipment and mechanical aids

Use equipment and mechanical aids, like lifting devices, where you can.



10. Review and revise control strategies

Keep talking about manual handling risks and what you have to do to eliminate or reduce them. If an injury occurs, review and revise your control measures. This will help prevent it happening again.

UBS has welcomed new trades to the network, and we want to take this opportunity to reiterate the importance of submitting documents to our DOCs system properly.

Our system takes your invoice and auto uploads it to jobs, but you must follow these precise instructions for it to work properly. Documents must be emailed to docs@uniquebuilding.com.au attached to the email as a PDF.

Important: All files must be sent as email attachments only. Do not use download links (e.g., Google Drive, Dropbox, OneDrive), as these will be rejected by the system.

Email Formatting Requirements

Each email must include:

1. The correct subject line format.
2. The UBS job number (UBS-xxxx).
3. A supported file type (see below).
4. Only one document category per email.

Subject Line Formatting Examples

Document Type	Subject Line Format
Invoice	Invoice UBS-12345
SWMS	SWMS UBS-12345
Make Safe Report	Make Safe UBS-12345
Trade Report	Report UBS-12345
Specialist Report	Report UBS-12345
Quote	Quote UBS-12345
Job Site Photos	Photos UBS-12345
Safety Equipment Photos	Safety UBS-12345
Site Plans	Plans UBS-12345

Victoria (VIC)

1. Security of Payment Reform – Implementation Phase Confirmed

Status: Passed in late 2025, commencement staged into 2026.

Key Changes: Expanded entitlement to payment claims, removal of excluded amounts, and tighter controls on adjudication responses.

Action: Review subcontract payment processes and internal claim assessment procedures ahead of commencement.

2. Victorian Building & Plumbing Commission (VBPC) Compliance Transition

Status: Ongoing rollout following establishment in 2025.

Key Changes: Consolidation of building and plumbing oversight, with increased focus on documentation, inspection standards, and practitioner accountability.

Action: Ensure site records, certifications, and compliance documentation are consistent and audit-ready.

Queensland (QLD)

1. Simplified Safety and Incident Reporting Regime

Status: Confirmed late 2025, enforcement commencing progressively.

Key Changes: Single reporting pathway for serious incidents, replacing dual notification requirements, with stronger penalties for non-compliance.

Action: Update site safety procedures and reporting workflows to reflect the streamlined process.

2. Increased Regulatory Enforcement Activity

Status: Active.

Key Changes: Heightened compliance action relating to licensing, unlicensed work, and supervision obligations.

Action: Re-confirm licence validity and scope for all contractors and subcontractors engaged on works.

Our team recently completed rectification works at the Peninsula Aquatic Recreation Centre (PARC) in Frankston to address ongoing water leaks from the external water slides. These leaks had caused calcification, corrosion of structural steel, and deterioration of surrounding concrete supports, requiring a coordinated response.

The work included cleaning affected steel and concrete supports, inspecting and treating corroded reinforcement, and recoating steel to prevent further damage. We also carried out extensive caulking across slide joints to ensure long-term watertight performance. Access works involved boom lifts, scaffolding, and temporary fencing to maintain safety and minimize disruption.

The project required close collaboration across multiple trades and strong planning to manage safety, access, and sequencing in a live recreational environment. A big thank you to all trades for their professionalism and commitment to working safely in challenging conditions. Special thanks to the Niche team for coordinating works and keeping the project on track.

This job is a great example of what can be achieved when teams work together towards a common goal. Well done to everyone involved!



Thanks for reading this edition of the Trade Newsletter. Send us an email at tradepartners@uniquebuilding.com.au with any questions! 😊