

TRADE NEWSLETTER

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UBS Highlight

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



At UBS, we know that success is built not only on what we deliver but how we deliver it. Professionalism, courtesy, and safe work practices define every UBS project.

June brought reminders of the importance of these values as regulators took action on safety and compliance across our industry. In this July edition, we share lessons and updates to help ensure we all continue to meet the highest standards.

Reach out to tradepartners@uniquebuilding.com.au with any questions or suggestions.



"The reward of a thing well done is to have done it." Ralph Waldo Emerson

June 2025 brought fresh enforcement action in Victoria and Queensland targeting unsafe work at heights. These actions followed site visits where inspectors observed clear breaches of fall protection requirements — and in most cases, injuries that could have been prevented.

In Victoria, a plumbing company was charged after a worker fell over 3 metres from an unguarded roof edge while replacing guttering on a domestic dwelling. The worker suffered fractures and required hospitalisation. WorkSafe alleged that the company failed to install edge protection or use a harness system, and did not have a Safe Work Method Statement in place for the high-risk work.

In Queensland, roofing inspectors observed workers on a two-storey home with no scaffolds, no harnesses, and no perimeter protection. The contractor was issued infringement notices and ordered to cease work until controls were installed. Inspectors found no rescue plan had been documented, and no one was assigned as a spotter for the high-risk work.

These incidents serve as a reminder: falls from height remain one of the deadliest hazards in construction. They happen quickly and often with life-changing consequences.

What is expected on UBS sites?

- Edge protection (guardrails, scaffolds, or safety mesh) must be in place before commencing any roof or elevated work.
- Where harnesses are used, they must be worn correctly and secured to appropriate anchor points.
- A written rescue plan must be completed and communicated to all involved.
- Supervisors must check controls daily and after any changes to the site.

Shortcuts on safety are never worth the risk. By following these simple but critical requirements, we protect ourselves, our colleagues, and our clients from tragedy.

Every UBS site reflects not only our workmanship, but also our values as a company. We aren't just rebuilding homes — we're restoring client confidence after challenging events. That's why professionalism, care, and courtesy on site are as important as technical quality.

In June, UBS received positive feedback from clients who appreciated how our trades respected their homes, communicated clearly, and minimised disruption. These comments remind us that professionalism is a key part of what sets UBS apart.

What does professionalism look like on site?

Respecting property:

- Use drop sheets, coverings, and edge protectors on floors, benchtops, and external surfaces. Plan tool and material movements carefully to avoid damage. If working outside, protect gardens, driveways, and neighbouring properties where possible.

Clean work areas:

- Keep tools and materials tidy. Remove offcuts, packaging, and debris promptly. Before leaving each day, sweep or clean surfaces as needed so the site is left neat and safe.

Clear communication:

- Always direct client questions about claims or project scope to the UBS Project Manager. This ensures accurate, consistent information and protects you from giving advice that could cause confusion.

Courtesy and accountability:

- Greet clients, explain where you'll be working, and work within approved hours. If an issue arises — such as accidental damage or an unexpected delay — report it promptly to your UBS supervisor so it can be managed the right way.

By upholding these standards, we protect UBS's reputation and ensure smoother jobs with satisfied clients. Thank you for your professionalism on every site.

Regulators have been active in June, holding builders and developers accountable on several fronts. Here are two notable enforcement outcomes in Victoria and Queensland that all trade partners should be aware of:

Victoria: A Mornington Peninsula builder and his company were permanently banned from operating by the Supreme Court for unlicensed and dishonest conduct. The Victorian Building Authority (VBA) presented evidence that the builder misused another contractor's registration, took large deposits (including one over \$100,000), and abandoned multiple home renovation projects. In June, the court issued a permanent injunction stopping him from undertaking any building work, including advertising or accepting money for jobs. The only exception allows him to work as an employee carpenter under supervision by a registered builder. If he breaches these orders, he could face jail. This outcome sends a clear message: fraud, misrepresentation, and working without proper registration will lead to severe penalties. Make sure your licences, registrations and contract practices are in order – the risks of cutting corners are simply too high.

Queensland: A major property developer was fined \$150,000 in the first prosecution under Queensland's project trust account laws. The Queensland Building and Construction Commission (QBCC) charged a company after it was found that payments intended for subcontractors were not placed into the legally required trust account during a large build. Over a dozen payments in 2022–23 were made into a standard account rather than the protected trust account that safeguards subcontractor payments if a head contractor collapses. In June, the Magistrates Court imposed the fine (no conviction recorded), and the company has since audited and strengthened its systems. The QBCC stressed this case shows the importance of proper financial management and protecting subcontractor entitlements. It's a reminder that financial compliance is just as critical as safety, and regulators will enforce it.

Staying compliant is everyone's responsibility. Whether it's licences, safety requirements or payment laws, follow the rules that apply to your work. If in doubt, ask for guidance rather than risk a breach. Together, let's keep standards high and protect our clients, colleagues and ourselves.

This project involved major restoration and enhancements to the pool area, including the removal and replacement of the pool, coping, paving, and retaining walls to match existing finishes as closely as possible. Works included new exposed concrete finishes, glass pool fencing with gates, and privacy screening, along with significant drainage and structural upgrades to ensure compliance and long-term durability. Variations were handled professionally to address unforeseen site conditions such as non-compliant paving and reinforcement needs.

We would like to extend our sincere thanks to all trades involved — from pool installers and bricklayers to concreters, carpenters, plumbers, engineers, and permit consultants. Your hard work, flexibility, and commitment to quality have delivered a result we can all be proud of.



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