



Care & Repair Cymru

COVID-19
Important information



Working in Care & Repair Clients homes, a guide for building contractors

Improving homes, Changing lives

Care & Repair Cymru is a registered charity:
Charity number 1163542



Why it's important that Care & Repair carries on working

Care & Repair helps older people to stay independent in their own home. During the Coronavirus pandemic, older people are spending more time at home so they need help more than ever. This includes those who are self-isolating because they have symptoms, self-isolating from personal choice, or those who are shielding as they are classed as very vulnerable and have received a formal letter advising of this.

It's important that Care & Repair continues to operate and carry out crucial work such as adaptations (e.g. stairlifts, level access walk-in showers, hand rails, grab rails, and ramps), and essential repairs (such as electrical safety, plumbing and drainage, gas, dampness, leaking roofs and windows and making homes fit for safe habitation). If we don't do this, older people's health, safety and welfare could be harmed and they might end up in hospital, GP surgeries, or care homes.

Care & Repair workers are 'key workers' as defined by the Welsh Government, and as such we can carry on providing our services in communities and homes, as we are helping to keep older people safe and well. The end product of how we support older people is that works are needed to their homes, and we often work with you as tradespeople and building contractors to get this work completed.

Our expectations of tradespeople and building contractors carrying out works in our clients' homes

Across Wales, Care & Repair has put in place minimum standards of Personal Protective Equipment, hygiene, working practices, and social distancing rules for our own workers. This is based on official Public Health Wales and Government advice. It is important that you as private contractors also work to these same rules, in order to protect our clients and you as individuals from Coronavirus infection.



Personal Protective Equipment: Minimum requirements for working in Care & Repair client homes

Context	Disposable gloves	Disposable plastic apron.	Surgical mask	Fluid resistant (Type IIR) surgical mask	Eye/face protection*
Working inside client's property where any member of the household has coronavirus symptoms (i.e. is a possible or confirmed case)	✓ Single use	✓ Single use	✗ No	✓ Single use	✓ Single use
Working inside properties where client is in extremely vulnerable group or where a member of the household is within the extremely vulnerable group undergoing shielding**	✓ Single use	✗ No	✓ Single use	✗ No	✗ No

*This may be single use or re-usable face/eye protection and may be full-face visor or goggles

**Shielding and extremely vulnerable group definitions can be found in government guidance

Our expectations of contractors we work with

1. Find out ahead of arriving at our clients' home whether they are self-isolating or shielding.
2. Use the correct Personal Protective Equipment.
3. Always maintain strict social distancing. Keep a minimum of 2 metres from the client and their household, and respectfully ask clients to remain at 2 metres. Avoid direct contact, and explain that you cannot accept refreshments.
4. Clean and sanitise mobile devices regularly.
5. Ensure PPE is put on properly before entering a property, and when taken off it is done correctly to avoid cross-contamination.
6. Safely dispose of PPE by double-bagging and removing from the client's home for careful disposal.
7. Listen to our client's concerns, and respect their wishes.
8. Disinfect tools and equipment, and don't bring anything unnecessary into a property such as work bags, paperwork or tools not being used.
9. Sanitise tools and equipment after every internal use, using either detergent and water or sanitising wipes.
10. Wipe down and clean the general work area, on arrival and after leaving the property, with either detergent and hot water or appropriate sanitising wipes.

11. Wipe down key points in your vehicles regularly with detergent and water, or sanitising wipes when not available.

Safe disposal of PPE

Once used, disposable PPE items should be double-bagged, labelled with the date and time, removed from site, and carefully disposed of. Disposal in a general waste collection after at least 72 hours of bagging the last item of PPE is acceptable.

Risk assessment, method statements, and the Construction (Design and Management) Regulations 2015 (CDM)

CDM requires a risk assessment that identifies **all** health and safety hazards, and steps needed to control and manage health and safety risks. It is vital that every job, and potential risk, is judged on its own merits and that you carefully consider all aspects of health, safety and welfare on all work you undertake.

Addressing Coronavirus infection control for yourself, householders, your operatives, colleagues, family members and the general public is an important addition to your usual construction hazard risk assessment.

This information has been prepared to offer you guidance on how to minimise the spread of Coronavirus when working in our clients' homes, but it is ultimately your responsibility to ensure you comply with relevant legislation and regulations, and that you provide as necessary Construction Phase Health and Safety Plans (CPP) and Method Statements.

If you have any questions or concerns, please phone and speak to us.



Care & Repair Cymru

www.careandrepair.org.uk

find us on



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