

# BEST PRACTICE GUIDES

## SECTION 6 SECOND FIX



**PRIDE IN  
THE JOB  
AWARDS**



# BEST PRACTICE GUIDES

Our series of Best Practice Guides will take you through what the Pride in the Job judges look for at each stage of construction and when considering the site manager's overall organisation and management skills.

The Pride in the Job marking sheet used by our judges has 44 marking lines split across 9 sections. The judges will give a score for each line - where there is no work to mark, that line will be left blank and no mark given. A mark of 4 indicates compliance with NHBC Standards and with Building Regulations. A mark of 5 indicates extra attention to detail over and above compliance standards. A mark of 6 would indicate that much of what the judges have seen cannot be improved upon. A mark less than 4 would indicate varying issues relating to workmanship and non-compliance with NHBC's Standards - the greater the issue or number of the same issue, the lower the mark. The final score will be all the marks awarded expressed as a percentage.

These Guides set out what the judges are looking for with clear hints and tips on the sort of practice that will lead to higher marks.

Clearly it is impossible in these short guides to cover every single point of construction - we try here to cover the main issues that are taken into account when considering a mark for each score line.

When looking at the photographs, consider each one in the context of the score line heading - don't be distracted by something else that isn't as good - that will be marked accordingly elsewhere.

## SECTION 6 SECOND FIX

PLUMBING SERVICES & EQUIPMENT

ELECTRICAL SERVICES INCLUDING EQUIPMENT

JOINERY

In this section we examine the trades and finishes that will be seen by the future owner. The neatness, squareness, levelness and general aesthetic finish are all examined during this stage of the marking. The overall effect of the finished home is what the new home owner will see and judge you by.

## PLUMBING SERVICES & EQUIPMENT





5



## SECTION 6 - SECOND FIX

### PLUMBING SERVICES & EQUIPMENT

The judges will be looking at quality of the installation or appearance of exposed pipework within the home. Neat and presentable work is the main criteria.

You need to ensure that there is easy access to shut-off valves and clear labelling to inform homeowners. Tundishes need to be positioned in easy line of sight and radiators need to be level and have neat or hidden tails.

For higher marks we are looking for consistent and accurate pipework routing, neat insulation and fixing of the insulation - cable ties are the preferred option in cylinder cupboards as tape will always become detached. Other things to consider:

- the neatness of holes in ceilings and walls where pipework passes through is important, as is the cleanliness of exposed joints
- painting adds a neat look, but so does the clean finish of bare copper pipework with no dribbling solder
- radiators aesthetically positioned in a room centred in bays or on narrow walls is also an important part of the aesthetics of radiator fixing
- any labelling that goes beyond the norm (but not to excess) to inform the homeowner will be considered
- testing and commissioning will form part of the overall management considerations in section 9.

**Image 1:** Shows a tidy installation - well fitted pipework insulation, the electric cables all well managed and neatly out of the way, some signage and emergency information, plus the various keys for the gas meter box and the loft access hatch all in one place.

Perhaps one or two of the cable ties are a little tight, but overall this would get top marks from the judges.

**Image 2:** This is why we don't want to see duct tape to fix pipe insulation in place or to try and hide poor joints. After a few cycles of cold and heat, it simply peels off and becomes a horrible sticky mess. This would deserve only a 3 at best from the judges.

**Images 3 and 4:** Getting pipe insulation to fit around bends and joints seems to challenge many plumbers, hence the better scores being awarded when this is achieved. Cable ties are far better than tape but make sure they are not pulled too tight.

Here we have some superb examples that show just how it can be done. If you want to use coloured cable ties, then fine, but the benefits to the homeowner are not clear as they are unlikely to need to know which pipe does what. Workmanship and attention to detail such as this deserve a 6 from the judges.

**Image 5:** Cables can be a nuisance but planning at first fix stage exactly where everything has to go will reap benefits. Templates will help. This is a very good example of how to manage cables. As with the previous images, there is little that can be done to better this, so a mark of 6 would be well deserved.

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## ELECTRICAL SERVICES INCLUDING EQUIPMENT

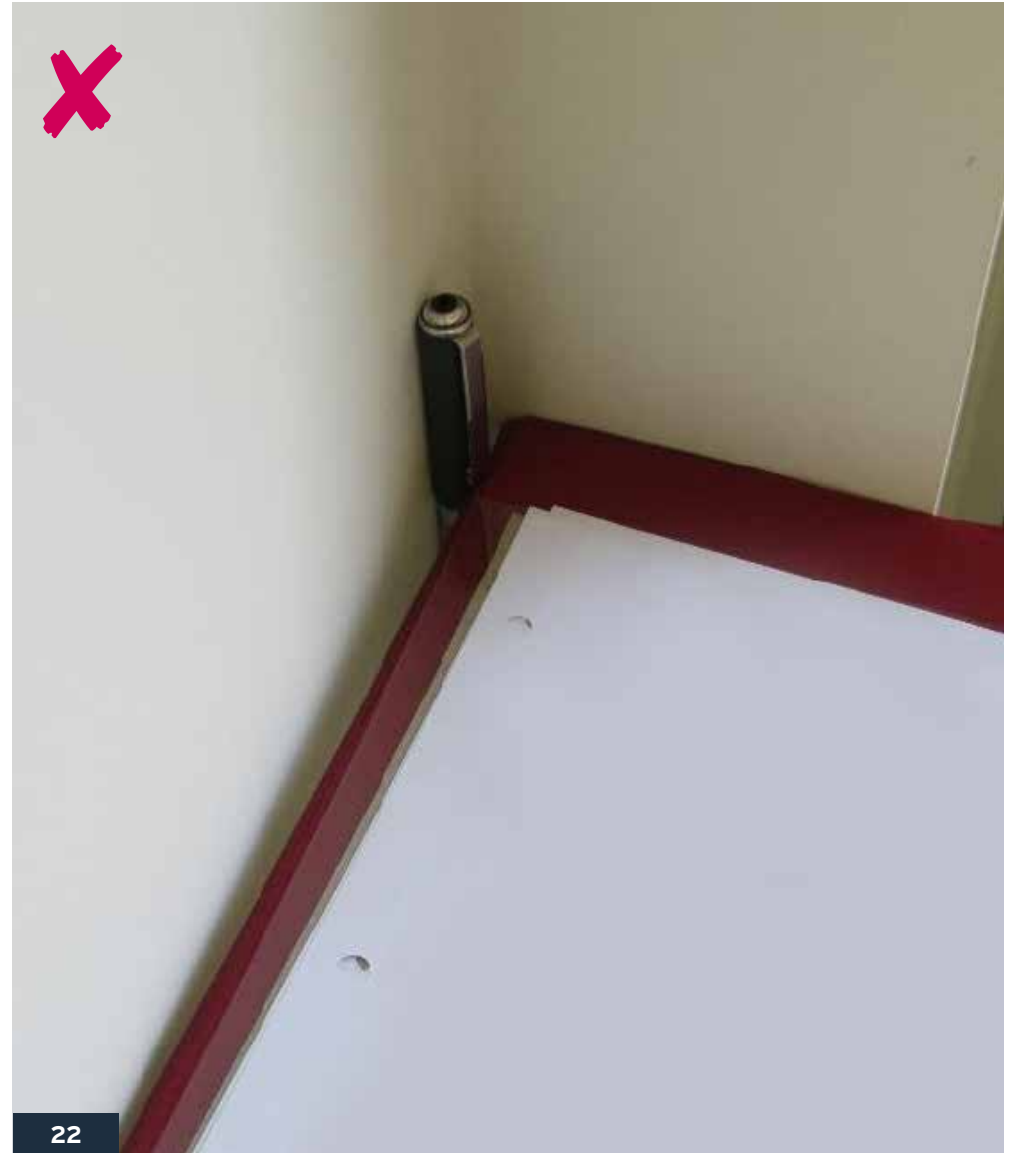


## ELECTRICAL SERVICES INCLUDING EQUIPMENT









## JOINERY



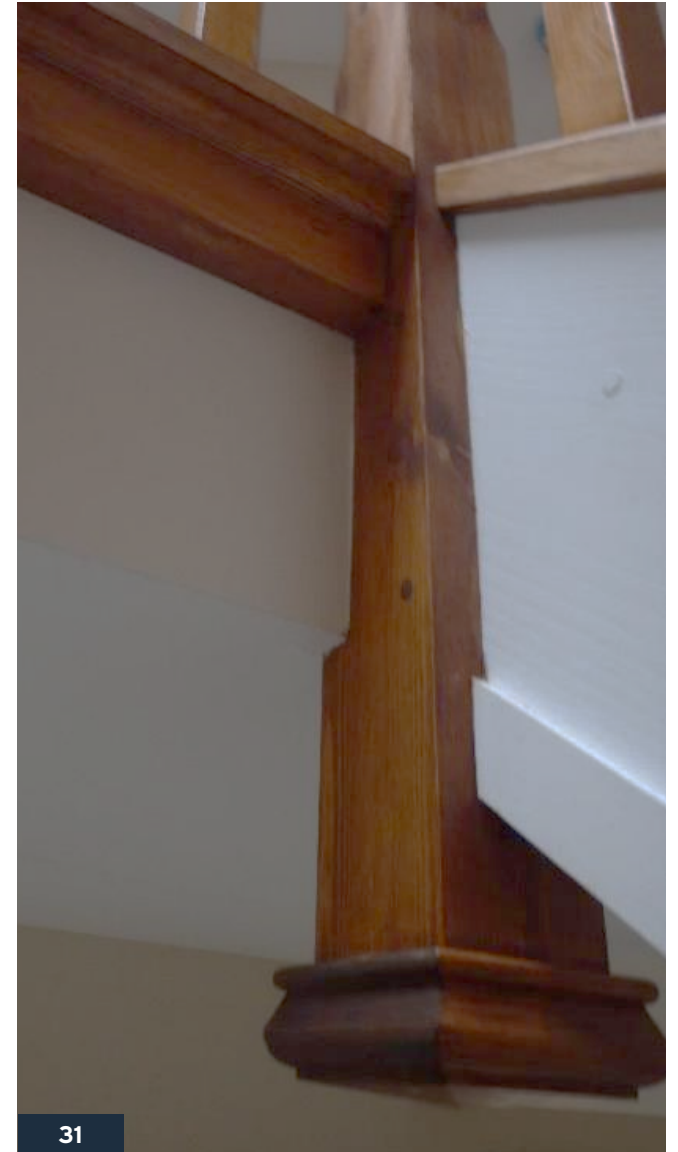




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# GOOD LUCK!

We hope you have found this best practice guide useful in gaining a better understanding of what the judges are looking for at each stage of construction.

Remember, the six characteristics the judges are looking for in a site manager are:

- consistency
- attention to detail
- technical expertise
- leadership
- interpretation
- health and safety.

We wish you all the very best in the Pride in the Job competition as you strive for your very first win or to repeat or even improve on your performance in previous years.