

Safe Work Method Statement (SWMS): Electric Jackhammer Use

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****Task**:** Use of Electric Jackhammer for Breaking Up Concrete

1. PPE (Personal Protective Equipment) Required

- Safety boots (steel cap)
- High visibility vest or shirt
- Safety glasses
- Hearing protection (ear muffs/plugs)
- Dust mask or respirator (if dust is present)
- Long sleeve shirt and pants

2. Tools and Equipment

- Electric jackhammer (checked and tested/tagged)
- RCD (Residual Current Device) or circuit breaker
- Extension lead (tested and tagged)
- Appropriate chisel/bit for jackhammer
- Broom, dustpan, or vacuum for clean-up

3. Potential Hazards

- Electrocution from damaged equipment
- Hearing damage from noise
- Dust inhalation (silica dust)
- Flying debris causing eye injuries
- Muscle or joint strain (manual handling)
- Slips, trips, and falls
- Exposure to vibration (HAVS)
- Damage to underground services (pipes, cables)

4. Risk Control Measures

Hazard	Control Measures
Electrocution	Use only tested/tagged equipment Inspect power cords and plugs before use Connect via RCD device
Noise	Wear hearing protection Limit exposure time
Dust	Wet down concrete before and during use Wear dust mask or respirator Use dust extraction if available
Flying debris	Wear safety glasses Set up exclusion zone around work area
Manual handling	Use team lift or mechanical aids to move jackhammer Use proper lifting technique
Slips, trips, falls	Keep work area clear of rubble and cords Clean up debris regularly
Underground services	Check site drawings before breaking ground Use service locators if required

5. Procedure

1. Preparation

- Review the work area for hazards.
- Check for underground services.
- Set up barriers or signage to restrict access.
- Inspect and test all equipment before use.

2. Operation

- Don required PPE.
- Connect jackhammer via RCD.
- Use a proper stance and grip to operate the tool.
- Start with short bursts to get a feel for the tool.
- Break concrete in manageable sections.

- Keep area clean by removing debris as you work.

3. Shut Down

- Turn off and unplug the jackhammer.
- Allow it to cool before storage.
- Inspect for damage and report issues.
- Clean work area and return equipment.

6. Emergency Procedures

- In case of electric shock: Disconnect power immediately and call emergency services (000 in Australia).
- First aid kits must be available onsite.
- Report all incidents and near misses to the site supervisor.
- Know the location of fire extinguishers and site exit points.

7. Training and Authorisation

- Only trained and competent persons to operate jackhammer.
- Inductions must be completed for the work site.
- Supervisors to verify operator competency before work begins.

8. Sign-off

Name	Position	Signature	Date
Andrew Cottam	Manager	AC	22 nd May 2025