

Pride in  
the Job  
Awards



# Best practice guide

Section 6

**Second fix**

# Best practice guide

**Our series of Best Practice Guides 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 43 marking lines split across 10 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 four indicates compliance with NHBC Standards. A mark of five indicates extra attention to detail over and above compliance standards. A mark of six would indicate that much of what the judges have seen cannot be improved upon. A mark less than four 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

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 homeowner will see and judge. The following will be covered in this section:

**Services - electrical (including equipment)**

**Services - plumbing (including equipment)**

**Joinery**

## Section 6

# Services – electrical

(including equipment)

**The foundation for a successful second fix lies in the first fix stage. If the first fix is done correctly, the second fix should seamlessly lead to an excellent outcome.**

**Pride** – Key factors include the management of switches, sockets, visible wiring (such as in cylinder cupboards and garages), and the positioning of the consumer unit. Here are some critical points to ensure quality:

- switch backing-plates: ensure they are fixed squarely with no visible gaps around the edges
- wiring in tank cupboards: clip the wiring appropriately to prevent damage
- fuse boxes: install and label them correctly.

For additional marks, pay close attention to:

- the neatness of routing and clipping any exposed wiring
- dressing the screws on sockets and switch plates.

Finally, the positioning and spacing of electric sockets and switch units depend on the first fix stage. Therefore, collaboration between trades is essential to achieve consistent spacing and positioning, which should be considered when awarding extra marks.







## Section 6

# Services – plumbing

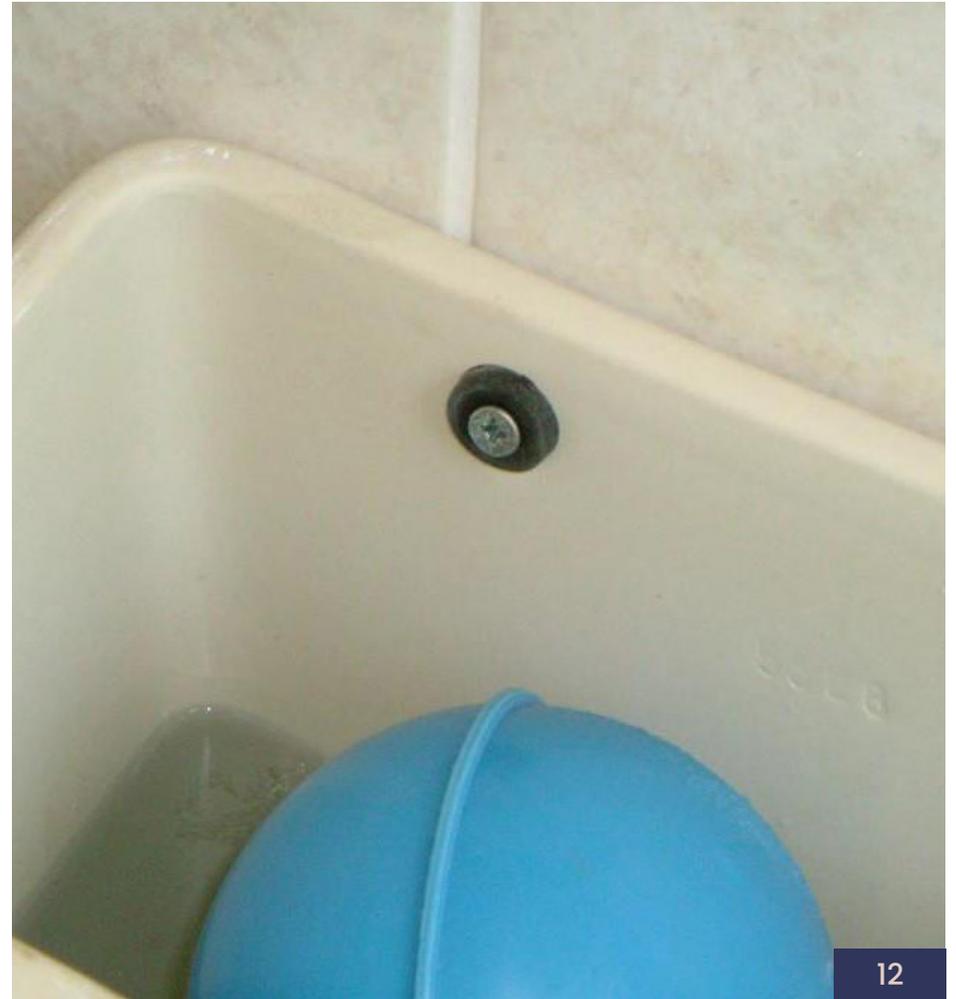
(including equipment)

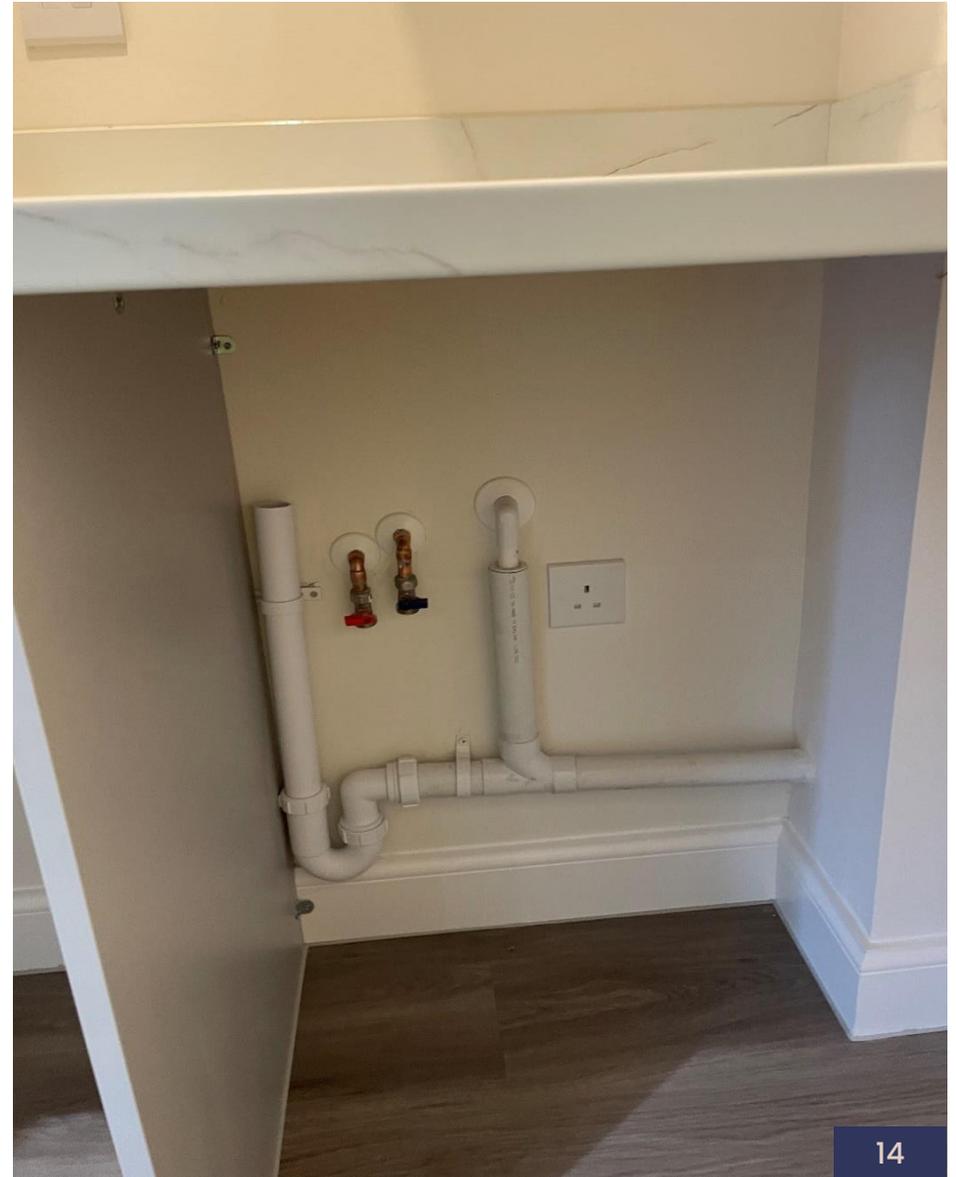
The judges will be looking at quality of the installation or appearance of exposed pipework within the home. Neat and presentable work is the main criteria.

**Pride** – 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.

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 excessive solder.











## Section 6

# Joinery

In this section judges will be looking for the quality of finish and of the fitting and fixing of doors, skirting, architrave, window boards and ironmongery.

**Pride** – For higher marks, judges will look for evidence of care and attention to details of skirtings, architraves and stairs. Consideration will be given to the finished product to avoid leaving work that makes decorating or finishing awkward.

Consistency of margins and other detailed joinery work, such as stair balustrading and handrails is important. Squareness of skirtings to boxing and reveals will be assessed.



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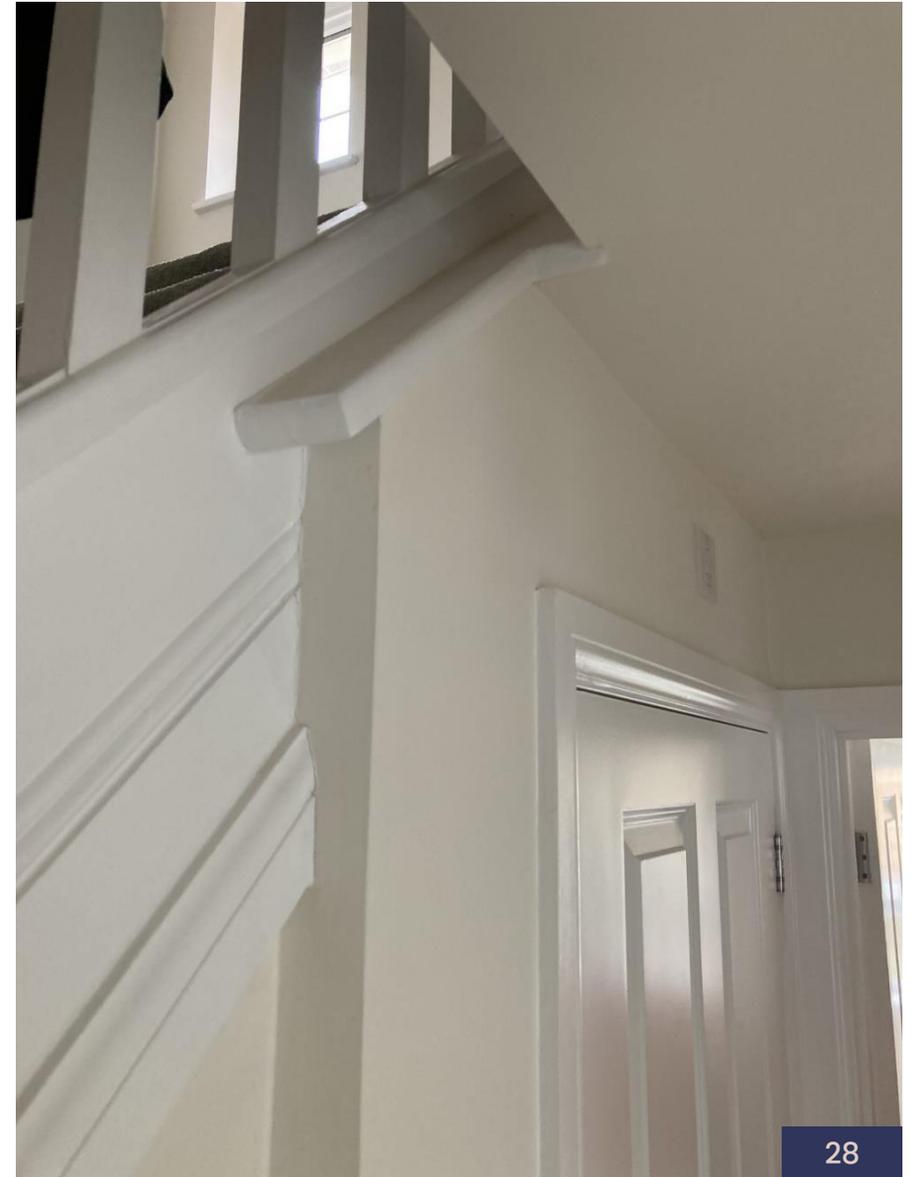


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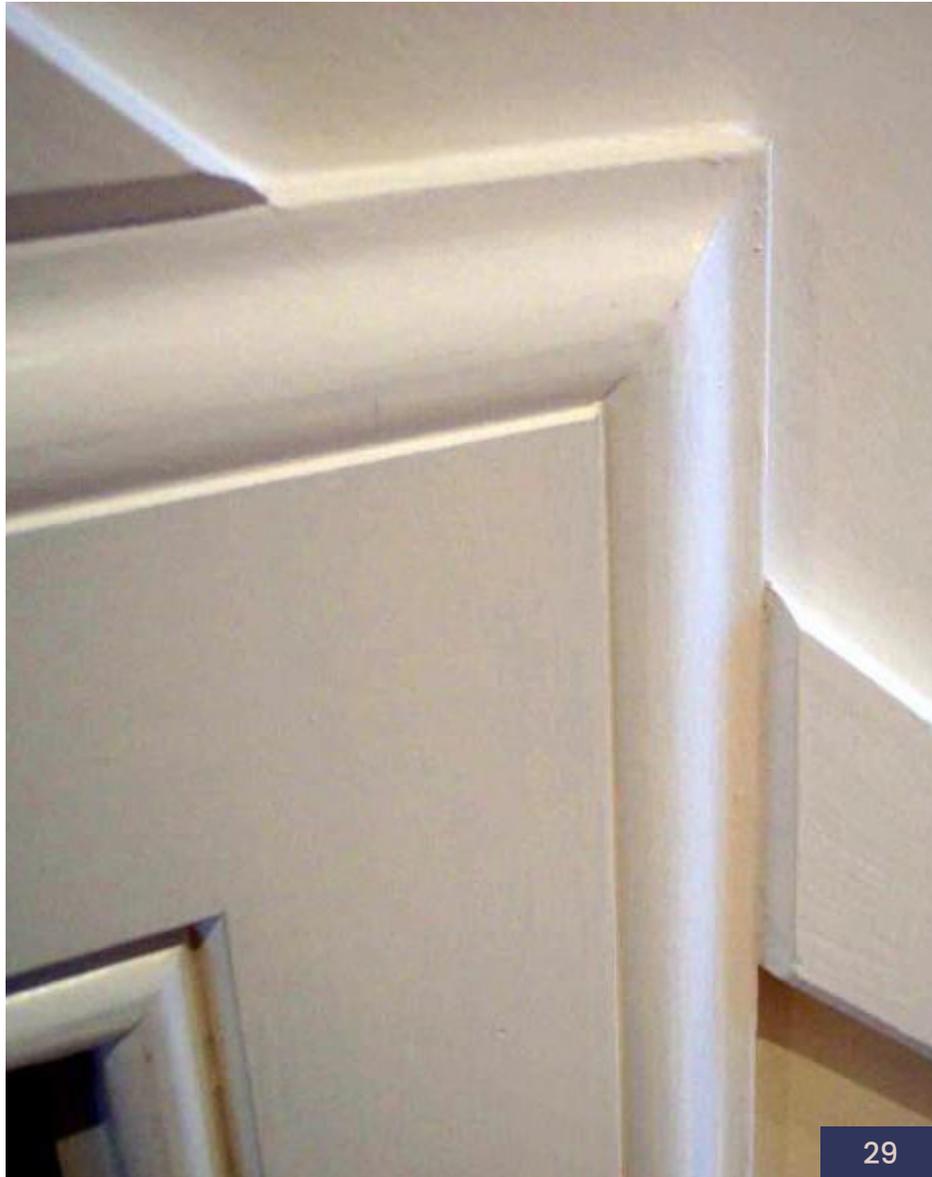
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# Good luck!

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.

