

Working outdoor in summer

Employers have legal obligations to provide safe working conditions and have the health and safety policies in place.

Builders are taking advantage of the recent warm, sunny and dry weather in the UK and carry on with outside building works. Both employers and workers have to keep in mind that overheating and exposure to the sun can have a negative impact on their health.

Moreover, when working outdoors, the hot

weather can influence worker's effectiveness. Health and Safety Executive (HSE) encourage to introduce the following measures:

- ensure there is an appropriate PPE for each worker (heat resistant)
- reschedule work to more cooling times of the day
- provide frequent short breaks in a shading area
- ensure free access to fresh, cold drinking water
- encourage to remove PPE during the break

- keep workers informed about symptoms of the heat stress
- help workers to apply sun creams on exposed body parts
- if workers do indoor jobs, ensure the site is adequately ventilated
- if work involves physical effort, the indoor temperature should be not over 25C to avoid over sweating
- training in the precautions and supervision

(Source: HSE)



Health and Safety
Executive

Thermal comfort checklist

This table will help you to carry out a basic thermal comfort risk assessment.

Factor	Description	Yes
Air temperature	Does the air feel warm or hot?	
	Does the temperature in the workplace fluctuate during a normal working day?	
	Does the temperature in the workplace change a lot during hot or cold seasonal variations?	
Radiant temperature	Is there a heat source in the environment?	
	Is there any equipment that produces steam?	
	Is the workplace affected by external weather conditions?	
Humidity	Are your employees wearing PPE that is vapour impermeable?	
	Do your employees complain that the air is too dry?	
	Do your employees complain that the air is humid?	
Air movement	Is cold or warm air blowing directly into the workspace?	
	Are employees complaining of draught?	
Metabolic rate	Is work rate moderate to intensive in warm or hot conditions?	
	Are employees sedentary in cool or cold environments?	
PPE	Is PPE being worn that protects against harmful toxins, chemicals, asbestos, flames, extreme heat, etc?	
	Can employees make individual alterations to their clothing in response to the thermal environment?	
	Is respiratory protection being worn?	
What your employees think	Do your employees think that there is a thermal comfort problem?	

Read the descriptions for each thermal comfort factor, and tick the appropriate box. If you tick two or more 'YES' boxes there may be a risk of thermal discomfort and you may need to carry out a more detailed risk assessment.

Further information is available on the [HSE website](#).