

Context:

Soft barriers such as cones, T-bollards, barrier tape and **timber floor protection** are extensively used around RMIT to provide protection from hazards. Unfortunately, in many cases these items are not maintained and become unfit for purpose and present a hazard to RMIT Staff, Student and contractors.

Barriers are required where persons are exposed to hazards such as:

- Being struck by materials
- Falling into open excavations or penetrations
- Spills until they can be appropriately cleaned up
- Being struck by moving or rotating equipment
- Unauthorised entry into work area or confined space
- Unauthorised access to stored waste or materials
- Being struck by traffic
- Any specific potentially hazardous work processes

Floor protection is required when placing items such as skip in paved area, to prevent damage to the paved surface. Timber sheeting is the most common material used as floor protection, other material are also use, this safety alert also applies to these materials.

Hazards:

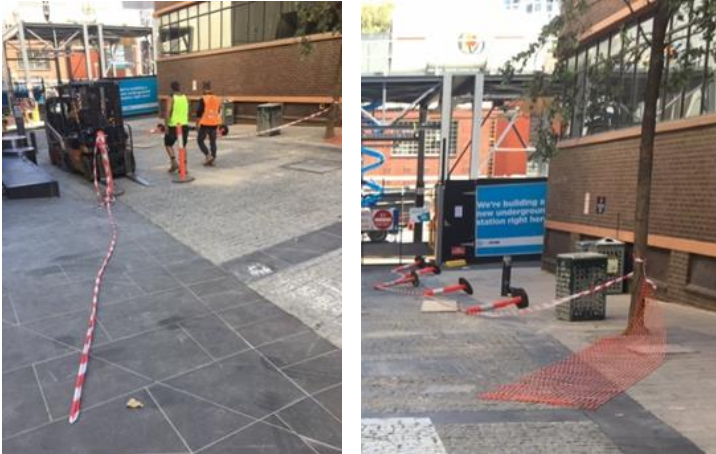

- Barricading not preventing unauthorised access to restricted area
- Bollards and/or cones placed too far apart not providing adequate delineation of restricted area
- Barriers blowing over in the wind
- Tape and barrier mesh blowing in the wind
- Purpose of barricade not identified
- Owner of the barricading not identified
- Barricading left in place when no longer required
- No information tags or warning signs on barrier
- Construction materials/waste being stored, even temporarily, outside of a secure worksite
- **Floor protection timbers left unsecured or unattended e.g. after skip is removed from site**



Action Required:

- Except in emergency situations barrier tape and mesh are not to be use in Bowen street or other outdoor RMIT spaces without permission from the Property Services Safety or Health Safety & Wellbeing teams
- T-bollards or cones and retractable barrier and the preferred soft barrier solution in outdoor areas
- Bollards and cones are to be placed a maximum of 2 meters apart and a retractable barrier attached
- Where there is potential T-bollards will be blown over with the wind, two bases must be fitted
- All barriers must have appropriate signage or tags providing details as follows:
 1. Nature of the hazard e.g. Construction Zone
 2. Company name
 3. Contact person
 4. Contact number
 5. RMIT representative name and contact details e.g. copy of Property Services Works Notice
- Barrier signage are to be in place a maximum of 4 meters apart
- Barriers are to be maintained and immediately removed when no longer required
- Soft barriers such as cones and bollard are not to be used as edge protection
- **Floor protection under skips to be immediately removed when no longer in use**
- **Floor protection materials are not to be left in Bowen Street, if not under a skip**

What Bad Looks Like:

	
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Bollards laying on ground• Barrier tape and mesh broken and blowing in the wind• No signage identifying owner of barrier or why the barrier was in place• Unauthorised persons walking in area	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Floor protection timbers left in Bowen Street• Floor protection not removed or adequately secured• Potential trip hazards• Potential projectile hazard during strong wind conditions

THE ABOVE PRACTICES ARE NOT ACCEPTABLE IN OUR WORKPLACE

What Good Looks Like:

	
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Exclusion zone clearly demarcated• All bollards standing• Retractable barrier between each bollard• No tape or barrier mesh flapping in the wind	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Exclusion zone clearly demarcated• All barriers standing• All barriers locked in with feet intact• Protection under skip

THESE ARE THE STANDARDS RMIT EXPECT