











Top 10 root causes of falls when working in residential roofing

Siding/Outside finishing

Falls when working at heights are a significant concern in the residential roofing sector the Infrastructure Health and Safety Association (IHSA) serves, where they cause a significant number of lost-time injuries and deaths. IHSA, with support from the Ministry of Labour, Immigration, Training and Skills Development (MLITSD), organized an initiative where a group of industry subject matter experts came together to examine the common causes of falls when working at heights. Together, they identified the following top 10 root causes for the siding / outside finishing trades in the residential roofing sector.

Priority	Category		Primary root cause
1	Processes		Builder scheduling
2	Environment		Piecework
3	Tools & machines		Equipment availability & selection
4	Environment		Conditions Ground access
5	Environment, culture, people		Environment and oversight, culture, government (enforcement, regulation)
6	Culture		Underground economy
7	Tools & machines		Personal Protective Equipment (PPE)
8	Environment		Weather Work access
9	Culture		Safety culture
10	People		Mental health Worker fitness

Note: Some of the ranked numbers have multiple causes listed, as they resulted in a tie during the formal voting process. Visit [Working at Heights \(Falls\): Residential Roofing](https://www.ihsa.ca/working-at-heights-falls-residential-roofing) at [IHSA.ca](https://www.ihsa.ca) to learn more and access tools and resources that assist workplaces with falls when working in residential roofing.