



Risk assessment for – Wall maintenance and route setting

Date last reviewed 17/09/25 **By** Lee Browning **Checked by** Danny Griffiths

See also risk assessment: portable power tools

When 'route setter' is mentioned this applies to anyone working on the wall, for example quick draw checks or stripping holds ready for route setter

Hazard	Risk Consequence	Who might be harmed	Control Measure	Level of risk with control measure
Fall from height	High	All	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Training in appropriate techniques will be given • Experienced climber only to be route setting • Relevant protection to be used ie. Rope protection or ladder or two attachment points (climbing rope and static line). If not operation on bouldering wall. • Setting on boulder wall over matting • Twin line working on roped wall (“Working line” and “Fall arrest system”) 	Low
Face injury/eyes	High	Setter	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Staff issued with PPE to be worn while setting/stripping 	Low
Noise	high	Setter/strippers	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Staff issued with PPE to be worn while setting/stripping 	Low
Equipment failure	High	All	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All rope access equipment checked to guidelines 	Low
Falling items i.e. holds, bolts	High	All	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Area to be cordoned off when route setting • Helmets to be worn by anybody working under route setters 	Low
Broken holds	Med	All	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Route setters to inspect broken holds • Route setters to use appropriate fixings • Route setters to take care not to over tighten 	Low
Spinning holds	Med	All	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Route setters to test routes • Information in safety video place to warn customers 	Low
Volume detaching from wall	High	All	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Route setters to use adequate number of screws relative to size of volume. • Route setter to check if damage to volume 	Low
Finger trapped behind hold, either setting or climbers	Med	All	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Route setters to take care when using power tools to affix holds • Route setters to not put holds where fingers fit behind them, due to the curved nature of some parts of the wall. 	Low



on curved wall				
Repetitive strain injury	Low	Route setter	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Setter advised to warm up before setting • Correct use and the correct tools 	Low
Manual handling	Med	Route setter	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Setters to use appropriate lifting techniques when moving heavy items (HSE guidelines) 	Low
Hold washing chemicals	Med	Hold cleaner	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Appropriate procedure to be followed • PPE (gloves, goggles) to be worn when working with hold cleaner • Cleaning to be done in well-lit ventilated area • All COSH recommendations to be followed 	Low
Setter stuck on at height on wall	High	Route setter	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Rope rescue plan in place • Loan working avoided when working on ropes to ensure rescue is possible • Twin line working with “Working line” and “Fall arrest system” 	Low
Suspension Injury	Med	Route setter	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Setters to use appropriate harness or seat for the length of time they will be suspended. 	Low
Falling behind wall	High	Route setter/ maintenance person	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Relevant protection to be used ie. Rope protection or ladder • In emergency situations panels can be removed 	Low
Falling of ladder	High	Route setter/ maintenance person	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Care to be taken when using ladders • Special care to be taken when using ladders on bouldering matting • Consider rope protection (self belay) if appropriate 	Low
Wall failure	High	All	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Wall manufactured to EN guidelines • Wall to be checked as recommended by EntrePrises 	Low
Vibration of impact drivers	Med	Route setter/ maintenance person	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hand-arm vibration exposure calculation from HSE has been carried out • Soft impacts provided for setting, gloves, replacing and servicing impact drivers 	Low
Injury from fittings behind wall	Med	Route setter/ maintenance person	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Caution to be taken when behind climbing wall structure due to sharp edges, screws and it being a difficult area access • Working at height protection to be used when necessary 	Low





Specific route setting

Good setting practice bouldering	High	Climbers	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Down climbs in place on boulder wall, where possible/required • Hard moves at the top of the boulder wall to be avoided where possible • Moves that propel climbers out of safe fall zones to be avoided • Leverage of large holds on large volumes to be considered to avoid failure • Volume location to be considered due to fall zones 	Low
Good setting practice roped walls	High	Climbers	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Safe clipping on first lead bolts • Leverage of large holds on large volumes to be considered to avoid failure • Volume location to be considered due to fall zones 	Low

Note,

Rope access is used due to access. The rubbercrumb does not give a good working surface for a Mobile Elevating Work platform. So rope access is used.