

Editor John Roper
Tel: 07967 666794
Email: john.roper@profinder.eu
Production assistant:
Jocasta Roper

Associate editor Brian Shillibeer

Advertisement sales

Steve Anthony
Tel: 07967 585475
Email: steve.anthony@profinder.eu
Mehreen Haroon-Ali
Tel: 07932 243008
Email: mehreen.haroon@profinder.eu

Advertisement production

Email: fabricatorcopy@profinder.eu

Admin:

The Studio, Hillside Avenue,
Elstree & Borehamwood, WD6 1HQ
Tel: 07807 374932
cathryn.ellis@profinder.eu

The Fabricator is published in the UK by Profinder Ltd.

Opinions expressed in The Fabricator are those of the contributors and do not represent editorial policy.

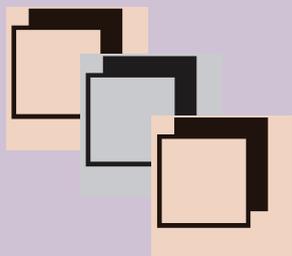
The Fabricator accepts payment for colour pictures.

Subscription rates: UK £45; rest of EU £60; worldwide £105

**The Fabricator Vol 16 No 3 ISSN:
1752-2145**

www.thefabricator.pro

Copyright © 2020 Profinder Ltd.



In association
with



THE FABRICATOR

Comment

As we near the end of March there is only one topic in town: covid-19 is now dominating our lives and our businesses. Just to confirm the fact a text message from the government told me I must stay at home. I have worked from my home office for years so no problem there. The problem seems to me that the position of manufacturers was left extremely vague – perhaps deliberately so. The measures the government is taking are going to crash the economy, at least in the short term. The shops that have been ordered to close will be lucky to open again. One assumes that trade counters are included though there was no mention of construction being forced to stop which implies that windows can still be installed – replacement as well as new build; in which case trade counters would seem necessary so perhaps could stay open.

If it is left to the police to decide on the grey areas we will see total inconstancy as different chief constables take different views. It happens in other areas to my certain knowledge.

In a press release from Denver based Lifetime Windows & Siding, the company's chief executive officer, Peter j. Svedin outlines the measures that the company is taking to protect its customers. It says:

“All sales team members will use a hand-sanitizer before entering your home and they will sanitize their measuring devices and tape measures using disinfectant wipes.

“Sales team members who are sick will not be allowed to meet with clients in person.

“If you would prefer not to meet in person, we can schedule your meeting through FaceTime, Skype, Zoom, GoToMeeting or Google Hangouts.

So our US colleagues are still working hard to do business although the president still seem to be largely in denial.

My point is that there are always work-arounds and the idea of just giving up doesn't strike me as natural to the UK window industry either. Let us hope that the industry gets its collective head around the problem and once again re-invents itself and gets back to business, if not as normal then as close to normal as it can manage.

One of the biggest problems, of course, for the whole construction industry – and lots of media types too – is the number of self-employed people who will have no income at all if they cannot work. A problem that the government seems reluctant to address. The provisions it has made for individuals seem pretty paltry and provisions for business largely boil down to headlines.

Some politicians seemed happy to destroy our economy by dragging us out of the EU with no real alternative markets for us to trade in and none that are as easily accessible. Let us hope that their ambition is not achieved inadvertently by covid-19.

John Roper