

HOUSEKEEPING AT THE WORKSITE

Housekeeping is an ongoing part of the job, not something that only happens at the end of the day. Hazards can pile up quickly, so keeping walkways, stairs, exits, fire extinguishers and emergency access routes clear at all times is essential.

Store and organize materials properly to prevent them from falling, blocking access or creating additional hazards. Make sure combustible dust and flammable materials are kept away from ignition sources and take care of hazards as soon as you spot them instead of waiting until the work is finished.

KNOW THE RISKS OF HAZARDS BUILDING UP:

- COMMON HAZARDS
- HOUSEKEEPING TIPS



BC Forest Safety

Safety is **good** business

HOUSEKEEPING AT THE WORKSITE



Common Hazards Caused by Poor Housekeeping

- **Trips and Falls:** Scattered tools, lumber, scrap materials and debris left on the ground can create tripping hazards. Even small items underfoot can lead to serious injuries.
- **Slips:** Spills, wet surfaces and dirt buildup can make floors and walkways slippery.
- **Struck-by Incidents:** Poorly stored materials can lead to falling objects. Unsecured stacks may shift or collapse striking workers.
- **Cuts and Punctures:** Exposed nails, sharp edges and damaged materials can cause injuries.
- **Fire Hazards:** Combustible dust can ignite easily, and clutter may block access to firefighting equipment when it's needed most.
- **Obstructed Emergency Exits:** Clutter blocking walkways can slow down or prevent safe evacuation during an emergency.
- **Equipment-Related Accidents:** Debris in mobile equipment and vehicle travel paths can lead to collisions or loss of control.

Housekeeping Tips for a Clean, Safe Worksite:

Good housekeeping requires continuous effort throughout the day.

- **Clean as you go:** Tidy up after each task and clean spills right away to prevent hazards from building up.
- **Keep walkways clear:** Make sure aisles, exits and access routes are unobstructed. Remove obstacles to prevent trips and if a pathway must be closed, clearly mark an alternate route.
- **Organize materials:** Store items in stable areas, using shelves for weight distribution. Secure liquids, keep materials away from edges and avoid clutter to prevent accidents.
- **Designate waste areas:** Create safe systems for waste disposal, especially on multi-level sites and set up clearly labelled bins for different waste types.
- **Use covered bins for flammable waste:** Store oily rags and similar items in self-closing metal containers to prevent fires and empty them regularly.
- **Maintain cable management:** Route cords and cables along walls or overhead whenever possible and secure them to prevent tripping hazards.
- **Put tools away after use:** Return tools to their designated storage areas to reduce clutter and prevent injuries.
- **Report hazards immediately:** Deal with spills, obstructions and other hazards right away. If you can't fix the issue immediately, notify others and report it.
- **Schedule regular cleanup:** Make cleanup part of the routine. Regular cleanup breaks for everyone will help keep the worksite safe, organized and working efficiently.

REMEMBER:

Good housekeeping isn't just a task, it's a habit. Keeping your work area clean and organized helps protect you, your teammates and the company
- building a culture where safety and efficiency go hand in hand.

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