



Housekeeping

Housekeeping refers to making sure materials are in good condition and keeping the areas we work in and walk in clean, orderly, sanitary, and dry. Bad housekeeping is dangerous at any time. It can lead to production delays, property damage, and higher costs.

Sharon's Story

Sharon, a carpenter, was doing framing for a custom-sized space on the second story of a house. A lot of wood pieces, scraps, and sawdust had accumulated around the sawhorses, power tools, cords, and piles of materials. When leaving for the day, she tripped over some of the items on the floor and fell down the stairwell, injuring her neck.

- ✘ What could have been done to prevent this incident?
- ✘ Does your worksite have a lot of lumber, debris, or flammable materials lying around?
- ✘ How often are materials organized and placed where they belong?

Remember This

- Keep floors dry, clean, and clear of waste.
- Keep workplaces well-lighted.
- Keep hoses, power cords, and welding leads out of heavily travelled walkways or areas.
- Keep materials away from openings, roof edges, excavations, and trenches.
- Keep all work areas, walkways, and stairs in and around buildings or other structures clear.
- Don't allow materials or garbage to build up. Remove unused materials.
- Don't block emergency exits, fire equipment, or first aid stations.
- Don't store chemicals and gases near heat sources or electrical equipment.
- Place, stack, or store materials and equipment where they will not cause injury to workers.
- Provide separate, covered containers for collecting different wastes, such as trash, oily rags, dry rags, and flammable or hazardous materials (acids, harsh or harmful dusts, etc.).



Housekeeping



- ✘ Keep all work areas, walkways, and stairs dry, clean, and clear of waste.
- ✘ Keep hoses, power cords, and welding leads out of heavily traveled walkways or areas.
- ✘ Don't allow materials or garbage to build up. Remove unused materials. Continually clear out garbage and other wastes.