

3 Types of Poor Housekeeping Hazards

In this toolbox talk, learn about the common hazards caused by poor housekeeping on a construction site.

Poor Housekeeping Hazards Safety Talk

Housekeeping is not just for the home. Keeping a clean and tidy workplace is also highly important to ensure the safety of all employees. To avoid unnecessary injuries, it is essential that you practice good housekeeping at work.

A clean workspace will improve productivity and efficiency, and it is everyone's responsibility to contribute. All employees should do their part in keeping their work areas clean and clear.

Three types of hazards caused by poor housekeeping

No matter how busy it gets, employee safety should be a main focus in the workplace. You must follow established guidelines to help avoid [unsafe conditions](#) which can lead to injuries.

Good housekeeping habits have a major impact on workplace safety, while poor housekeeping exposes workers to several types of hazards, including:

1. Strain and sprain hazards

One of the most important things that all workers should do is keep items in their proper places, up and off the floor. Leaving tools, equipment, and materials out in the way can result in trips and falls.

If heavy items are left out, this can also result in employees injuring themselves from trying to [lift or move the heavy object](#), putting them at a greater risk of injuring themselves with a strain or sprain.

Don't cut corners, and be sure to properly put away any tools or equipment after you finish using them. Items that do not belong on the floor should always be returned to where they belong, for the safety of all employees.

2. Laceration hazards

In the workplace, there are many different types of objects that can cause [lacerations](#). Whether you work in a construction site, warehouse, or manufacturing setting there are many tools and objects around you that have the potential to cause injury. It is important to always be aware of your surroundings and always clean up sharp items to avoid cuts.

Sharp objects can be found all over the workplace, and sometimes it isn't easy to see the risk. Remember that all sharp tools, sharp-edged materials jagged material, and any other item with a sharp edge can cause harm, even through gloves or clothing.

Keeping the work area clean and always putting away sharp objects when finished working with them will help you and your coworkers avoid accidental injuries.

3. Slip, trip, and fall hazards

Depending on the area that you are working in, you may be exposed to different types of spill hazards. When good housekeeping habits are not observed, and spills are not cleared promptly, [slips, trips, and falls](#) become a big risk, just like when objects are left out in walkways.

Any areas that become contaminated with moisture, water, grease, oil, or any other liquid should be immediately cleaned to avoid any injuries.

Any shift in flooring levels should also be properly marked to avoid falls.

How to avoid unnecessary housekeeping injuries

Injuries endured due to poor housekeeping can be completely avoided. If employees are responsible for their surroundings and take the right amount of caution, these types of injuries won't occur.

Each employee should take charge of their own workspace, pay attention to the three main types of hazards, and do the necessary cleaning to avoid them. Good housekeeping is not only for the safety of yourself but for your fellow coworkers as well.

Examples of poor housekeeping

A workplace that is not practicing [good housekeeping techniques](#) is only setting up themselves for disaster. Having an unclean workspace is not going to give the employee the opportunity to be as productive as they could be. T

he cleanliness of your work is important for everyone who is involved. Some examples of poor housekeeping in the workplace are:

1. Dirty counters and floors
2. Spills and leaks not being cleaned
3. No organization
4. Dirty bathrooms
5. Tools left out
6. Not having proper signs visible

Construction site housekeeping tips

If you want to make sure that your workplace stays as tidy as possible and you want to avoid injury, there are some steps that you can follow.

Posting these rules where all employees can be reminded of the needed task to keep the workplace safe at all times will help to keep everyone accountable.

To keep the workplace tidy, clean, and free of harm to the best of your ability, follow these rules:

1. Make sure all floors are dry and clear of clutter. This will help avoid slipping or tripping at work. There should always be a clear pathway for walking to avoid any risk of injuries. This is also a good practice to keep in case an emergency occurs and everyone needs to quickly exit the building.
2. Stairways and hallways should always be clear of clutter to avoid trips and falls. They should also be swept and mopped regularly. Conducting regular inspections of these areas is ideal to make sure they are always safe for use.
3. If your work area contains any type of toxic chemicals or liquids, they should be properly marked.
4. Good housekeeping is not always about making sure you clean up your mess, but also about making sure all safety guidelines and rules are being followed at all times. Fire extinguishers, emergency exit signage, first aid kits, and other similar items should always be put in their

designated areas. All employees should be aware of where they are located and exactly how to get to them in case they are needed.

5. Bathrooms should be kept clean and tidy. All trash cans and waste should be taken out regularly to keep things as sanitary as possible. All floors should be swept and mopped regularly to avoid problems. Wet floors need to be marked with signs to avoid someone slipping and falling.
6. If the area you are working in involves any live electrical wires, it should be properly marked and displayed. The proper precautions should be taken to avoid electrocution. Access to any electrical panels should never be blocked and always have a clear path making them accessible.