



## **HOUSEKEEPING SAFE WORK PRACTICES**

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OH&S Code Part 8 & Part 12 Section 185

Housekeeping includes the proper storage and maintenance of materials, supplies, and tools, as well as maintaining general site order and cleanliness. Good housekeeping is important for safety and improves on site productivity efficiency.

1. Generally the hazards of poor housekeeping opens the potential for gravitational energy to cause injury of varying degrees of severity including death. Trips, slips and falls are the most common where housekeeping is not taken seriously.
2. Another, but not as common but equally dangerous is to have exits & doorways blocked which would prevent workers from leaving because of fire, toxic spills and vapours.

### **Housekeeping safe work practices**

Follow these safe work practices regarding work site housekeeping:

- A. STORAGE: Plan the site so that adequate storage areas are available, including areas allocated to subtrades.
- B. GARBAGE: Have designated refuse containers in convenient locations. Do not allow the build-up of combustible garbage.
- C. ACCESS: Keep work areas, stairways, hallways & doorways clean and free from obstructions at all times. These are not storage areas.
- D. FREEDOM MOVEMENT: Keep work areas organized so that vehicle and pedestrian traffic can move freely
- E. CLUTTER: Do not leave tools, loose objects, oil, grease, or other materials lying around (they may cause slipping and tripping accidents or fire)
- F. WHEN TO CLEAN: Clean work areas at the end of a shift, immediately after finishing a job, or as necessary. Clean up spilled toxic, flammable, or corrosive materials immediately using the method described in the appropriate Safety Data Sheet (SDS). Maintain a spill kit at the work place for spilled material.
- G. CORDS & HOSES: Keep electrical cords and hoses tied above, or to one side of, stairways and work areas
- H. STACK AND SECURE: all material properly to prevent sliding, falling, or collapse. Extra caution should be taken to secure materials appropriately in inclement weather conditions (wind, rain, snow) to prevent loss, sliding, falling or flying material. Store pipe, conduit, and bar stock in racks or stacked and blocked to prevent movement. Stack or store all materials in a manner that permits safe entry to and exit from the work area.

*NOT ONLY DOES HOUSEKEEPING MAKE IT SAFER TO WORK BUT IMPROVES EFFICIENCY.*