

3.4 Workplace Hazards

3.4.1 Slips and Trips

Slipping and tripping on dirty surfaces or clutter commonly results in injury in the workshop. Good housekeeping and regular clean-up are often overlooked but extremely important aspects of daily work.

- Keep floors, especially pathways and aisles, free of objects, sawdust, spills.
- Do not run extension cords where they may create a tripping hazard.
- Keep your work area, equipment, and surrounding environment clean, during and after your work session.
- Do not accumulate scrap materials; deposit them in corresponding scrap bins or garbage and recycling containers.
- Work in a well-lit environment.
- Wear non-slip footwear.

3.4.2 Mist/Fumes/Vapours

Where processes may produce mists, fumes, or vapours which may be hazardous, local exhaust ventilation must be used to remove the hazardous substances. Relevant PPE must always be worn as outlined in **Section 3.1**.

- **Fume Extractors** remove airborne pollutants using suction and filtration systems. Tabletop fume extractors, and overhead fume arms can be used. Soldering produces harmful fumes that impose adverse effects on health, as well as create layers of dirt on nearby equipment. Gluing large surfaces, heating/melting plastic or foams are other examples of situations where use of a fume extractor is necessary.



3.4.3 Dust

Where processes may produce large amount of dust, a dust collection system must be used. If the dust is localized the collection can be delayed until work has finished. Power tools usually have vacuum ports so that most dust is collected as it is generated.

- **Portable dust collection systems** remove dust or other particles using vacuum suction. The particles are collected in a container for disposal. Must be used only with compatible materials (i.e. a wood dust collecting system should not be used when working with metals because of the risk of sparks starting a fire).

