

Good housekeeping

A clean, organized jobsite is often a sign of a well-run, profitable operation. You've seen its counterpart — the jobsite with trash, construction materials, and tools strewn everywhere.

Do your part

It's important that your employees perform housekeeping on a daily basis. Leaving waste and trash lying around for three or four days is an accident waiting to happen. Workers should pick up after themselves at the end of each shift. The consequences for failing to do this could be foot puncture wounds, cuts and bruises on the legs, and even broken arms, ankles, or collar bones.

Keep the walkways and stairways clear

Workers follow various routes on the jobsite to get from one place to another. Not only do they walk along these routes, they also carry equipment and materials along them. That's why it's important to keep them dry, clear, and hazard-free to prevent trips and falls.

Storing and handling materials

Employees want to have building materials close by when and where they need it. However, it's important to keep materials from accumulating on scaffolds and other work platforms. Workers should store the various types of materials in the proper way:

- Bricks: Stack them in interlocking layers and if you are stacking them higher than six feet, taper them back one-half block per layer above the six-foot level.
- Lumber: Remove all nails from used lumber before stacking or storing.
- Pipe, bar stock, poles, and structural steel: Rack if possible, and if not, stack and block to prevent spreading or tilting.

Many problems can occur when handling and storing construction materials, such as:

- Injuries from workers trying to handle heavy loads instead of waiting for the proper material handling equipment.
- Collapse of overloaded floors, platforms, and scaffolds.
- Tip-over of piles and stacks.

Having clean and organized jobsites can help your employees safely go home at the end of their workday.