



# Job site safety

Not all construction sites are created equal and it's common for hazards to change throughout the project. For a job site to run smoothly and safely, each crew and individual must do their part. No matter what your job tasks are for the day, here are five items you can focus on to keep yourself and your coworkers safer.

## 1. Walking surfaces

Slips, trips and falls are one of the leading causes of workplace injuries across all industries. Job sites can be especially hazardous with lots of personnel, materials and equipment in motion. Staying on top of housekeeping is the best way to avoid slip, trip and fall hazards.

Throughout the day, throw any debris in designated trash areas and put away any tools or equipment you're no longer using. Building materials and tools should be stored in organized, designated areas until needed. Do your part to always keep walkways and emergency exits clear.

## 2. Personal protective equipment

Although used as a last resort for safety, personal protective equipment (PPE) is essential, especially on construction sites. To ensure your PPE items work as intended, it's important to use and care for them appropriately. You should inspect your items daily and alert your supervisor of any damaged items that need replacing. Always wear your PPE correctly and talk to your supervisor if anything is uncomfortable. Clean and store your PPE as recommended by the manufacturer.

## 3. Use tools and equipment appropriately

Similar to PPE, tools and equipment are only safe when used as intended. Even a seemingly simple task such as standing on a bench rather than utilizing a ladder could have dangerous consequences. With every job task, take the time to select the right tools and/or equipment. Only use items you've been trained on and, if you ever have questions about the proper use of tools and equipment, ask a supervisor or tenured employee before starting any work.

Tools and equipment should also be inspected for damage on a regular basis and undergo maintenance as needed. With any electrical equipment, be sure to inspect cords for potential damage as well.

## 4. Report unsafe behavior and conditions

One person's actions can affect the safety of everyone on-site, which is why it's critical that everyone take safety seriously. If you notice any new hazards or unsafe behavior from others, report it to your supervisor as soon as possible. It's better to clarify a potential issue than witness an injury.

## 5. Stay aware

It's important to maintain an awareness of your surroundings throughout the workday. Avoid distractions like loud music or cell phones, which could prevent you from seeing or hearing potential hazards. Be aware of heavy machinery and never stand in an operator's blind spots or between equipment and immovable objects.



### Discussion questions

1. What is the best way to avoid slip, trip and fall hazards?
2. How often should housekeeping tasks be completed?
3. Items can be stored in emergency exit pathways as long as it's temporary. True or false?
4. How often should you inspect your PPE?
5. Whose responsibility is it to identify unsafe conditions?

### Answers

1. Housekeeping is the best way to avoid slip, trip and fall hazards.
2. Housekeeping tasks should occur throughout the day.
3. False. Items should never be stored in emergency exit pathways.
4. PPE items should be inspected before each use.
5. Everyone is responsible for staying aware and reporting unsafe conditions.

### Meeting notes:

Employee comments/concerns:

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Other safety issues to be addressed on the job/facility:

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### Training record:

Date: \_\_\_\_\_ Job site/facility: \_\_\_\_\_  
Trainer: \_\_\_\_\_ Title: \_\_\_\_\_

Employee name  
(print)

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