

# Housekeeping — construction

## Introduction:

If your housekeeping habits are poor, the result may be employee injuries, OSHA penalties, and even difficulty in securing future work. Think about how a “minor” issue like housekeeping can have such serious consequences. We should also be setting the expectation for everyone who enters the jobsite that housekeeping matters!

## Hazards:

- Out-of-place objects such as leaning lumber, plywood and other materials that pose tripping, falling or striking hazards.
- Misplaced tools.
- Lumber with protruding nails. Remember to pull all nails, bending over is not good enough.
- Cords or hoses across walk ways. Elevate if possible, cover with plywood or lumber, bevel edges to reduce trips.
- Protruding pipes, lumber, rebar or other materials in travel areas.
- Debris from cutting of conduit, copper and plastic pipes in the travel paths.
- Trash from lunch and breaks thrown on the ground.
- Debris in stairwells.

## Safe procedures:

- Clean up after yourself.
- Inform all subcontractors of their responsibility for housekeeping.
- Pick up your trash and debris and dispose of it properly.
- Store everything straight and square.
- Stack materials orderly and secure them so they won't topple.
- Implement a routine cleaning schedule. Depending on the work, it might be daily or weekly for more extensive clean-ups.
- Keep your work area clean throughout the day. This will minimize the amount of time needed to clean a “larger mess” at the end of the day.

## In conclusion:

Let's ask ourselves:

- How is housekeeping on our worksite?
- What can we do to improve housekeeping on this project?
- Where are the dump spots? Do we have enough storage containers?

We are responsible for our jobsite, do your part!