

## Housekeeping

Lack of proper housekeeping on the job is one safety hazard common to all construction projects until after final cleanup. Good housekeeping is one item that can help improve not only the safety on the job, but also the morale and productivity of the job.

### Guide for Discussion

The following "General Rules" should be covered in any discussion on housekeeping:

- Keep scrap lumber with protruding nails separate from other debris;
- Bend nails over or remove from lumber.
- Keep all waste debris in neat piles and away from the immediate work area.
- Remove debris from the job on a regular basis.
- Keep aisles, stairways and walkways clear.
- Store materials only in their designated areas.
- Place trash barrels where needed to eliminate food rubbish.
- Keep tools and equipment stored neatly.
- Keep extension cords from being across walkways. If necessary, run them overhead; same applies to air compressor hoses.
- Don't let trash and debris build up. If it does, make an extra effort to get it cleaned up.

Good Housekeeping Can:

- Prevent minor injuries like cuts, punctures, slivers;
- Prevent major accidents like slips, trips, falls and fires;
- Increase job productivity by speeding up the movement of workers and materials on the job;
- Keep compliance inspectors from visiting the job.

### Additional Discussion Notes:

When doing tear-off's or out's, no material shall be dropped to any point lying outside the exterior walls of the structure unless the area is effectively protected. (See Trash Chutes for more information.)

**Remember:** Good housekeeping aids everyone and makes it easier for everyone to do their work safely and with more pride.

**Attendees:**

NOTE: Always promote a discussion on any of the topics covered in the Tool Box Talks. Should any question arise that you cannot answer, don't hesitate to contact your Employer.