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Housekeeping During Construction Operations

Good housekeeping during construction operations is a vital function that can reduce accidents and improve overall safety performance on a job site, as well as improve morale, increase efficiency, and aid public relations. The practice of housekeeping involves proper storage, use, cleanup, and disposal of the various materials used during construction.

Cleanup on a construction site should be considered a part of the operation, rather than a separate activity. A good housekeeping program should be well planned and coordinated, and become customary practice. Housekeeping is a continuous process that should involve everyone on a job site. The best time to clean up is immediately after the debris has been created. Many accidents that are attributed to other causes, such as tripping or slipping, are actually the results of unsafe conditions produced by poor housekeeping.

The essentials of good housekeeping are generally reduced to the principle of "a proper place for everything and everything in its proper place." This implies a common-sense regimen on the part of all jobsite workers to maintain an orderly environment and a clean and sanitary job site.

Health & Safety

Housekeeping is integral to maintaining the health and safety of your workers. Scrap lumber with protruding nails, debris in work areas and combustibles are just a few examples of hazards that your workers can be injured by. Your housekeeping program will assist in keeping your workers safe and your safety program successful.

Risk Control Recommendations

Good housekeeping can save time, energy, and materials as well as reduce fire hazards and help limit injuries. Good work habits and good housekeeping are essential to a safe workplace. The following loss prevention recommendations should be considered when creating or implementing a successful housekeeping program:

Working Areas

- Provide safe access to the job site.
- Keep walking/working surfaces clear and clean.
- Keep stairways, passageways, and gangways free of material, supplies, and obstructions.
- Pick-up and place all debris or trash in its proper container.
- Hammer in, bend, or remove any nails protruding from scrap lumber. Cap or bend all exposed steel rebar ends.



Knowing your business matters.

- Remove from the work area any items not being used (e.g., tools, hoses, cords, chains, and hooks) and store them in their proper place.
- Keep lavatory and toilet facilities (stationary or portable) clean and sanitary with the necessary paper products and soap.

Waste

- Place trash and recyclable containers throughout the job site and mark them for proper use.
- Keep waste in metal cans or bins with self-closing covers and remove debris at regular intervals.
- Never allow rubbish to fall freely from any level of the project. Use chutes or other approved devices for waste removal.
- Seal waste and product drums and containers tightly to reduce evaporation, spillage, and contamination with water, dirt, or other materials.
- Require the disposal of scrap, waste, recyclable, and surplus materials be in accordance with Federal regulations and local codes.
- Never dispose of any waste into storm or sanitary sewers.
- Frequently schedule the safe collection and removal of combustible waste.
- Lock used oil containers and dumpsters and secure them from unwanted waste.

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Partners In Prevention

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For more information, contact your Risk Services Coordinator, our Loss Prevention Department at 1-800-665-1934, or visit our website at www.federated.ca

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