

# Jobsite Housekeeping

Jobsite housekeeping is critical for jobsite safety and efficiency and is one of the telltale signs that the contractors on a jobsite are committed to worker safety, work quality, and attention to detail. If trash, scrap materials, and clutter are accepted on the jobsite, it may become acceptable for more dangerous hazards to be tolerated, as well. A clean and organized jobsite creates a safer and more professional atmosphere. Some of the benefits of maintaining good jobsite housekeeping practices include:

- Prevention of injuries such as:
  - cuts and punctures resulting from protruding nails
  - head/neck/shoulder being struck by falling object
  - wrist/hand/elbow injuries from slips/trips/falls
- More effective use of jobsite space for material storage, etc.
- Decrease in fire hazards
- Decrease in property damage reducing raw material and stock used in the construction project
- Increase in productivity and efficiency since workers can concentrate on job tasks rather than working around clutter

## To help maintain jobsite housekeeping:

- Keep hoses, power cords, welding leads, etc. from laying in heavily-travelled areas. Coil them when not in use.
- Keep tools, equipment, and job materials neatly stored.
- Ensure the site has good lighting. Replace lights immediately when they burn out.



# Jobsite Housekeeping

Jobsite housekeeping must be maintained at all times. Jobsites should be cleaned and organized regularly throughout the work shift, not just at the end. To maintain a clean, safe, and efficient jobsite, incorporate these practices into each job.

- Housekeeping is everyone's responsibility. The general contractor or prime contractor on the project must set the housekeeping expectation for all trades on the jobsite.
- Develop a jobsite layout for storage of materials, equipment, waste piles, etc.
- Plan for adequate disposal of scrap/waste and surplus of materials by coordinating scheduled pickup and deliveries with waste haulers, material suppliers, etc.
- Place trash containers where needed for proper disposal of food wrappers, water bottles, etc.
- Provide chutes to remove debris, waste, etc. from upper-level floors.
- Don't allow debris and trash to build up on the jobsite. Sweep floors and remove debris regularly.
- Clean up spills and take measures to address slippery or greasy walking surfaces by placing containers of spill absorbent on the jobsite.
- Keep all debris and trash in neat piles and away from the immediate work area, walkways, and stairways.
- Secure loose or light materials that are stored on roofs or on open floors.
- Keep materials at least six feet from openings, roof edges, or excavations.
- Remove or bend over nails that protrude from lumber in your work areas.
- Store pipe (sprinkler, copper, conduit, PVC, etc.) and rod (rebar, etc.) on racks. If stored on the floor, stack in neat piles in an area away from walking/working surfaces. Be sure to check the sides for stabilization.
- Develop a plan for snow and ice removal by designating workers to shovel and salt the walking and working surfaces before the start of the workday and as needed throughout the workday.

