

You have a pretty good idea how safe a job is just by looking at it before you start to work. Even a "Sidewalk Superintendent" knows this. A job that looks clean, with everything in its place, is a safe job. That's all we mean when we talk about job housekeeping.

Good housekeeping calls for just two things. Try to remember them:

- Keep trash and loose objects picked up and dispose of them.
- Pile all materials and park all tools and equipment in the places where they belong.

These are the fundamentals of good house-keeping and they're simple enough. If we don't follow these two rules, we're letting ourselves in for trouble.

Putting the rules to work is not so simple. A grand cleanup once a week won't do the trick. Housekeeping is a job that can't be put off. We have to do it. It's up to each individual to be their own job housekeeper. When you see something lying around where it could trip an individual or fall on them, put it in a safe place. Don't wait for someone else to do it. If it's something that he or she will be looking for, you can put it safely where they can see it.

You've seen jobs, and probably worked on some, where it wasn't safe to put your foot down without first looking twice to be sure you weren't going to twist an ankle or run a nail through your shoe. A job like that is poorly run, badly managed. Probably it's losing money as well as causing accidents.

Some jobs have walkways, aisles, stairs, and ladders by which you get from one place to another. It's particularly important that these lines of travel be kept safe and clear of loose objects. Workers often carry loads on these routes. They can't always pick their steps or look around to be sure that nothing is going to trip them or fall on them.

A wet or greasy walkway may cause a bad accident. If you see a treacherous spot, make it your business to do some sweeping, mopping or scraping. Brick, tile, pipe, steel rods and similar materials scattered about the job or insecurely piled on scaffolds or platforms can cause accidents.

Other points to think about are when stacking material:

- The strength of the support if you're piling material on a floor, platform or scaffold.
- The stability of the ground if you're piling a heavy load.
- The height of the pile so it won't topple.
- The need for building racks if it's pipe or rods you have to stack.

We all know the value of good lighting in job housekeeping. Poor lighting and accidents go together. When you find a light out, report it and get a replacement.

It's not hard to keep a job clean if all useless materials, boxes, scrap lumber and other trash are picked up and removed regularly. Remember, if they're allowed to accumulate for even a few days, the job becomes a messy and unsafe place to work.

NOTE: Employees & Sub-Contractors are required to maintain their working areas in a clean and orderly fashion at all times. Repeated Non-Compliance shall be addressed immediately.