



Material Handling

Proper material handling is part of the successful working of any job. A good housekeeping program plans and manages the orderly storage and movement of materials from point of entry to exit. Workers need to know how to work safely with the products they use.

Guide for Discussion

Material Storage

- Ensure that floors can handle the storage loads.
- Keep materials six feet away from open floors or landings; ten feet away from the exterior of the building.
- Keep all aisles and passageways clear.
- Do not store non-compatible materials together. For example, gas containers and bulk lumber do not mix.

Proper Lifting Techniques

- Know your individual lifting capacity.
- Know the weight of the load to be lifted.
- Avoid over-extending or twisting your back.
- Use your legs to lift—keeping your back straight—with the load close to your body.
- Get help if needed.

Additional Discussion Notes Attend CIRMA's *Preventing Sprains & Strains and Preventing Back Injuries* Workshops to learn more about proper lifting techniques.

Remember There is a place for everything and everything needs to be in its place. The proper storage of work materials will make your job easier. Proper lifting and handling, with help if needed, will keep you from being injured on the job.

Attendees _____