

# OSHA General Housekeeping

## Introduction

Housekeeping is a broad term that refers to the routine maintenance and upkeep of a workplace. Good workplace housekeeping reduces injuries and accidents, improves morale, reduces fire potential and can even make operations more efficient.

The Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) makes reference to housekeeping in several general industry standards - bloodborne pathogens ([29 CFR 1910.1030](#)), fire protection plans ([29 CFR 1910.39](#)) and walking-working surfaces ([29 CFR 1910.22](#)).

Per 29 CFR 1910.22(a)(1) all places of employment, passageways, storerooms and service rooms must be kept clean and orderly and in a sanitary condition.

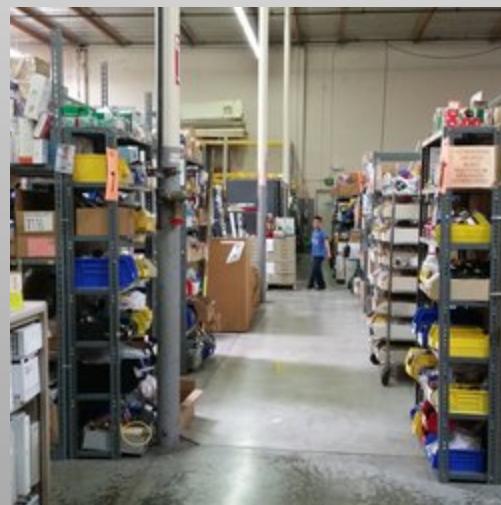


# General Housekeeping – con't

- The floor of every workroom must be maintained in a clean and so far as possible, a dry condition. Where wet processes are used, drainage must be maintained, and false floors, platforms, mats or other dry standing places should be provided where practical. (29 CFR 1910.22(a)(2))
- Every floor, working place and passageway must be kept free from protruding nails, splinters, holes or loose boards, so as to facilitate cleaning. (29 CFR 1910.22(a)(3))

# General Housekeeping – con't

- Per 29 CFR 1910.22(b)(1) aisles and passageways must be kept clear and in good repair.



# General Housekeeping – con't

- In order to ensure that proper workplace housekeeping is maintained, a continuous process involving both workers and custodial personnel is required. Housekeeping should be incorporated into all processes, operations and tasks performed in the workplace. Efforts should be concentrated in high traffic areas such as around stairs, platforms and ladders, around work stations and machines and in storage areas.



# General Housekeeping – con't

- Each worker needs to understand that workplace housekeeping is an integral part of his/her job and not merely a supplement to work he/she already performs. And, as workplace housekeeping becomes a standard part of operations, less time and effort are needed to maintain it at an appropriate level.

# General Housekeeping – con't

- The Citywide Safety Committee uses walk-through surveys to recognize, evaluate and control the hazards that may be created by the lack of proper workplace housekeeping.
- These surveys send a message to all employees that workplace housekeeping is viewed as an important part of everyone's job.

If you notice something that presents a potential hazard and cannot immediately be taken care of by you, you should secure the area to prevent injury and bring it to the attention of your supervisor.