



TOOLBOX TALK #6

YOUR MOTHER ALWAYS SAID...

When talking about maintaining a clean workshop or job site, we aren't trying to sound like your mother, who might have said many of the same types of things when you were growing up.

In our industry, proper housekeeping is important for several reasons, the most important of which is YOUR SAFETY. Fluids, scraps, waste, and other materials that we use on the job can present safety concerns if not properly managed. It is important that we all follow proper disposal and storage policies as a safeguard against injury. Keep walkways, ramps and other common areas clear of debris, scrap metal, spills and other obstacles. Strapping materials not promptly discarded can cause a trip and fall hazard. Tools should be kept in their toolboxes when not in use, and the toolboxes should be kept in a safe place.

Be especially cautious of items such as screws, nails and other rounded items that can cause a slip and fall injury. Even something as simple as a wooden pencil can send a work boot in the wrong direction. This isn't a complicated issue that requires much more than common sense, but make sure you know and understand our policies on the subject. Always be alert. A construction site can be dangerous when we fail to police ourselves.

Falls are the single most frequent cause of injury in the construction industry, and more injuries are caused by falls in construction than in any other industry. We have to keep our job sites free of these hazards as a matter of professional skill. In some jobs this is just a cleanliness issue, but here, it's a safety issue and we don't take shortcuts with safety.

We aren't trying to mother you. Make all the mess you want at home. On our job sites, though, good housekeeping is an important safety issue that we take very seriously.

Facilitator Notes: Review your specific policies and guidelines with your crew. Discuss any items unique to the job site and climate. Reinforce the issue as a matter of professionalism and solicit observations and input from members of your crew who might have noticed a problem area in the previous workweek.

Additional Notes: _____

Crew Member Comments: _____

Presented By: _____ **Date/Time** _____

Attendees: _____

List additional attendees on back of sheet