

Rethinking Workplace Housekeeping: From Chore to Opportunity

How many accidents in your workplace are caused simply because employees' housekeeping efforts are sloppy and inadequate? Probably more than you think.

Good housekeeping in the workplace is tremendously important. In a way, it underlies all your other safety efforts, because if your workplace isn't clean, well organized and well maintained, it isn't safe and healthy.

But to actually happen, good housekeeping has to be a safety priority. It also must have your seal of approval. If workers think that you don't really care about housekeeping or if they have the attitude that it's somebody else's job, then you have to set them straight.

Help workers see the light by pointing out some of the hazards of poor housekeeping, such as:

- Fire hazards from trash and other combustible debris
- Slips, trips and falls from items or spills the floors
- Contact hazards like bumping into objects or being hit by falling objects
- Puncture hazards from exposed sharp objects or jagged edges
- Chemical exposure from improper use or storage of hazardous materials

Benefits of Good Housekeeping

There are a number of benefits of good housekeeping, like fewer accidents and injuries, a healthier work environment, improved regulatory compliance and improved efficiency, productivity, and morale.

You have to make employees see that rather than a chore, good housekeeping is really an opportunity to make the workplace safer. And it's one of the easiest ways to that. All it takes is establishing a routine and sharing the work.

When everybody understands the importance of good housekeeping and takes his or her share of the responsibility, a cleaner, neater, safer workplace easy to achieve and maintain.

Good Training for a Safe Workplace

Good housekeeping is an essential part of a safe workplace. Unfortunately, your employees may not see its virtues in quite the same light you do. To them it might seem like drudgery. They may think you're just being fussy. Some may react like a teenager being asked to clean up his or her room.

So you have to sell them on the idea with some engaging awareness training that explains how and why housekeeping is important. That will help them see what you already know—that good housekeeping is good for workplace safety.