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Select Edition

All Sealants, Inc.

Week of 11/15/2021

Safe Storage: Sort It, Stack It, and Secure It!

Material handling and storage are routine tasks on every construction site; but that doesn't mean that they can be disregarded or treated lightly. Your safety, our effectiveness, the appearance of the site, and our profitability are all affected by how we handle materials. When it comes to storing materials on a construction site, you need to think of four words—Sort, Stack, Secure, and Safety.

Sort It: Building materials are always arriving on a jobsite. Construction materials include lumber, pipes, bags, bundles, boxed materials, drums, barrels, planks, sheets, and bricks. The first thing you'll need to do is be prepared to place compatible materials together. You must sort the materials into categories: flats, rounds, drums, fabrics, blocks, bags, and loose materials. The shape, size, and type of material will determine how you should store it. Some items will require a shelter or cover to protect them from the elements, while other items might require special handling.

Stack It: Depending on the type of material, you'll need to know how to safely stack it. For instance, boards should be stacked straight and flat; bags of cement and mortar must be protected from water and moisture; drums, buckets, and barrels must be stacked symmetrically. In general, make sure you place heavier items on the bottom, and lighter ones on top. Never stack glass containers or hazardous chemicals up high where they could fall on someone trying to reach them. Whenever possible, keep materials stacked on wooden pallets to keep them up and out of any water.

Secure It: Stacked materials can create hazards if you don't secure them. Collapsing loads and falling materials can crush or pin workers, causing injuries and deaths. To prevent such accidents, remember to take the necessary steps to secure materials. Block pipes to prevent stacks from rolling or shifting. Stack loose bricks, bags, and bundles in interlocking rows to prevent them from collapsing. Ensure that all materials are stacked on level ground. All stacks should be stable and self-supporting. Valuable materials should also be secured under lock and key. In high crime areas, fencing and outside lighting will help deter theft.

When storing materials, consider how often the material must be accessible to workers. Frequently-used materials should be stacked where they can be retrieved easily, on a regular basis. Items to be used later in the schedule or at the end of the job should be kept out of the way. Be sure stored materials do not create tripping, fire, or evacuation hazards for co-workers.

When storing materials, remember the four S's: Sort, Stack, and Secure; and the fourth "S"—the one you can't do without—Safety! When you Sort, Stack, and Secure, always have Safety in mind.

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SAFETY REMINDER
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Use proper lifting techniques to prevent back injuries when moving and handling construction materials.
Don't be a hero—ask for help.

NOTES:
SPECIAL TOPICS /EMPLOYEE SAFETY RECOMMENDATIONS/NOTES:

S.A.F.E. CARDS® PLANNED FOR THIS WEEK:

REVIEWED SDS # _____ SUBJECT: _____

MEETING DOCUMENTATION:
JOB NAME: _____
MEETING DATE: _____
SUPERVISOR: _____
ATTENDEES: _____

These instructions do not supersede local, state, or federal regulations.