

HOW TO SAFELY HANDLE **HAZARDOUS** **MATERIALS** ON CONSTRUCTION SITES



construction workers died
due to exposure to harmful
substances and environments



Construction workers frequently encounter hazardous substances like asbestos and lead. Improper handling can lead to death or serious health issues. Understanding how to manage and handle hazardous materials can help keep everyone on the jobsite safe.

Proper Training & Awareness

Conduct regular safety training on handling hazardous materials to ensure workers can identify them and use protective measures effectively.



Safe Storage & Labeling

Store hazardous materials in labeled containers away from heat. Use secondary containment for spills and keep flammable substances in fire-rated cabinets.

Use Personal Protective Equipment (PPE)

Wear appropriate PPE, such as gloves, masks, and protective clothing, to minimize exposure to hazardous substances.

Dust & Fume Control Measures

Use water suppression or a vacuum system when cutting or grinding. Ensure ventilation in enclosed spaces and install exhaust systems for diesel machinery.

Conduct Regular Site Inspections

Assign safety officers for daily or weekly inspections to check for leaks, spills, improper storage or PPE violations. Conduct an annual safety audit.

Proper Handling & Disposal

Follow OSHA and EPA guidelines for hazardous waste disposal. Ensure spill containment and cleanup for chemicals and oils and use licensed facilities for hazardous materials like asbestos and lead.

Emergency Response Plans

Establish emergency protocols for chemical spills, asbestos and lead contamination. Ensure accessibility of first-aid kits, eyewash stations, and emergency showers, and provide training on hazardous material handling.

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Sources:

Tips for Safely Handling Hazardous Materials on Construction Sites (<https://www.conexpoconagg.com>)
2023 U.S. Department of Labor Bureau of Labor Statistics - National Census of Fatal Occupational Injuries