

INTRODUCTION

Plumbing is essential to everyday life, so it is easy to forget to follow safe practices. However, if you remember to follow safety procedures, you can avoid illness and injury from the job.

HAZARDS

There are several hazards that are associated with plumbing. For example:

- Illness: Working with raw sewage or in areas with rodents can cause viruses and infections
- Muscle Strain: Lifting heavy objects and getting into awkward positions
- Slips, Trips, and Falls: Wet surfaces make it hazardous to walk around
- Risk of eye or skin injuries from chemicals or flying objects
- Risk of fire from welding
- Risk of electrocution from using power tools around wet surfaces



PREPARATION

- Read the Safety Data Sheet (SDS) for any chemical you may use for plumbing.
- Gather together your Personal Protective Equipment (PPE). Consider:
 - Goggles to protect your eyes from splashes or flying debris
 - Heat protective gloves to protect your hands from hot equipment or pipes
 - Protective shoes with non-slip soles
- Be sure the working area is free from clutter and debris so you can stay focused on your work and avoid tripping or slipping on unnecessary items.
- Check the air quality before you begin work in a confined space.
 - If the air quality is not good, be sure to have a respirator or some type of ventilation in order to stay safe.
- Turn off water or gasoline pipes if needed.
- Know the emergency numbers, such as the numbers of the utility companies, in case you need them to quickly shut things off.



TOOLS

Be sure to inspect all your tools before you use them, and keep them in good condition. Also be sure you know how to safely handle any tool before you actually use it:

- Electric Equipment
 - Only use power tools that are safe for a wet environment.
 - Do not automatically assume the electricity is off, even if it should be.
 - If you feel a tingling when touching a metal pipe, stop working immediately.
- Welding Equipment
 - Be sure the area is free of grease and oil so nothing will catch on fire from the welding torch.
 - Consider setting up a fire resistant shield to protect the area around the pipes being welded.
 - Do not perform welding or soldering tasks while wearing wet gloves.
 - Do not perform welding near containers labeled “flammable” or “combustible”.
- Plumbing Snakes
 - Only use a snake if you have been trained to do so.
 - Do not wear loose clothing, jewelry, or anything else that might get tangled in the snake.



GENERAL SAFETY TIPS

- Try to switch tasks and avoid awkward positions as best you can to prevent muscle fatigue.
- Do not look down the drain after pouring a chemical to avoid breathing in toxic fumes.
- Wash your hands after dealing with raw sewage.
- If you encounter asbestos, stop working and inform your supervisor.
- Do not work if you are too tired, sick, or under the influence of drugs or alcohol.

CONCLUSION

Plumbing safety is simple enough, but that does not mean that it can be ignored. Remember to prepare, properly use your tools, and follow all other safety rules, and you should be able to avoid the hazards that can come from plumbing.





Builders' Exchange
OF SANTA CLARA COUNTY

Safety Meeting Report

Employer _____

Date _____

Location _____

Meeting Supervisor _____

Safety Meeting Subject: _____

Accidents Reviewed: _____

Suggestions: _____

Employee's Attending

1. _____

2. _____

3. _____

4. _____

5. _____

6. _____

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