



SAFETY & ENVIRONMENTAL specs

PRE-JOB SAFETY CHECK

· Prior to conducting any work on a worksite, assemble the Work Team and conduct a pre-job safety check. Walk around the worksite and identify safety hazards such as poison ivy, standing water, holes, wasp, animals, electrical hazards, unsafe structures, unsafe walking surfaces, etc. After identifying this hazards, discuss how to take appropriate safety precautions.

HEAT EXHAUSTION

· Take precaution from the heat by drinking plenty of liquids and taking breaks in the cool, shade area. Keep an eye on co-workers, while working in the heat, for signs of heat exhaustion.

EXCAVATIONS

· Always check for underground utilities before digging on a worksite. If unsure, don't dig. As part of preplanning the work, call Texas 811 for utilities to be identified before digging for porch support, deck or ramp support excavation.

HANDLING GLASS

· Always wear gloves and protective eyewear when removing, handling, and installing glass.

LADDER SAFETY

- Always face ladder when ascending or descending
- Always maintain 3 points of contact on the ladder: 2 feet + 1 hand or 2 hands + 1 foot.
- Top of ladder should never be used as a step.
- Ladders should never be moved, shifted or extended while occupied.
- Never carry an object or load that could cause you to lose your balance.
- Use the 4:1 rule for proper ladder angle. For every 4 feet of height, keep the base of the ladder 1 foot from the structure. .

WASTE DISPOSAL

- Don't dispose of batteries, tires, paints, liquids, gasoline, oil, flammables, hazardous waste or large quantities of food waste.
- Don't pour paints, solvents, flammables in sewer system.
- Don't overload roll-off disposal containers past the side walls. The driver must be able to tarp the container to safely haul it. No debris should be left around the container.

LEAD BASED PAINT

- Houses built before 1979 may contain lead based paint. Paint sold after that time does not contain any lead compounds.
- The two most common ways for lead to enter the body is by inhalation of lead dust and ingestion of lead paint chips or lead dust from the hands.
- Those most susceptible to lead poisoning are very young children and pregnant or nursing women.
- Painting over lead based paint poses no health risk.
- ***NEVER sand a painted surface you suspect contains lead.***



ASBESTOS

- Asbestos is a mineral fiber that was used extensively in older homes in a variety of products and applications such as floor tiles, ceiling tiles, exterior siding, and attic insulation.
- It is the microscopic fiber that, when inhaled, poses a significant risk factor, especially in large quantities and in people who smoke. As long as the fibers are locked into their product and not airborne, they pose no risk.
- For our purposes, we should avoid removing or handling any asbestos product in a manner that would release the fibers into the air. Standard dust masks offer no protection from the microscopic fibers.
- It is not unusual to encounter asbestos siding on an older home. This product is typically 12" x 24", about 1/8" thick, and installed on exterior sides with pieces lapping over the top of each other similar to roof shingles. They are very brittle and often times the bottom pieces are cracked and chipped. For missing pieces, a replacement product is available that does not contain asbestos.
- Asbestos siding can be safely water cleaned and painted with no health risk. Do not sand, scrape, or use a wire brush on asbestos siding.

BIOHAZARDS

- Latex gloves are required equipment when cleaning the inside of a client's home of debris / refuse.
- Latex gloves will give added protection from unknown hazards and unsanitary conditions.
- Old medical equipment and medical supplies should be avoided if at all possible.
- Avoid picking up hazardous materials such as hypodermic needles, sharp objects, old car batteries, condoms, animal carcasses or any questionable object.

Because of liability issues, volunteers should refrain from making repairs on the following:

- Electrical components: including wiring, plugs, wall outlets, switches, etc.
- Plumbing: including water and wastewater, and natural gas.
- Major Roof Repairs

Exceptions to these are volunteers licensed in these fields who are willing to accept the liability for working on these systems.