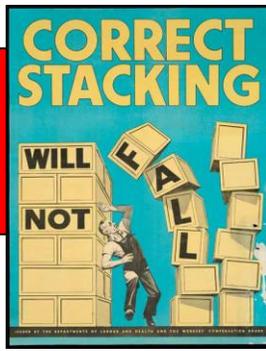


**TOOLBOX TALK
NO.34**

Safe Stacking



Unsafe stacking can lead to serious injuries – don't find yourself underneath an unsafe stack!

Many accidents occur when materials have to be taken from stacks. In particular when this is done by hand. Care should be taken when material is stacked, initially this can help prevent accidents.

Safe Stacks - Save Injuries

- When handling materials wear protective clothing i.e. hard hat, gloves and steel toed boots.
- Only stack material in authorised areas, never near doorways, access ways or on fire routes.
- Stack on a level surface and provide packing.
- Never make stacks higher than 3 times the minimum base width.
- Materials stacked by machine may have to be removed by hand, consider this in the method of placing.
- Machines can lift greater loads and to a higher level.
- Stack close to the work area to minimise the amount of carrying needed.
- When handling materials by hand, check weight if in doubt ask.
- Do not attempt to lift more than you feel able to.
- If material is being lowered by machine, keep hands clear of load and/or sign.

Palletised Material.

- Ensure that the base of the stack is level. Only stack two pallets high.
- If banding is damaged or materials are displaced in the pallets, do not stack other materials on top.
- Leave sufficient space between pallets for safe removal.
 - Leave sufficient space between pallets to allow safe access and egress for pedestrians and NEVER block fire routes.

Sheet material

- Stack flat where possible. If corners are sharp – protect (e.g. reinforcement mesh, steel sheets etc.)
- If stacked vertically, use suitable racks to prevent collapse – materials stacked vertically against walls can collapse whilst being removed or may overload walls etc.
- Don't store upright where panels could be affected by wind.
- Stack flat or store secured in designed racks. Do not lean against parts of the building or against temporary structures.

Timber

- Racks are best for small sized timbers – saves space.
- Joists and larger timbers should be placed on bearers and cross packing should be used to level the stack.
- Try to keep different lengths in separate stacks.

**SAFETY AS
STANDARD**

Pipes and Tubes

- Where pipes are small diameter, store neatly in rack.
- Where larger diameter – securely choc at base and at subsequent cross bearers.
- Don't stack in pyramids. Pyramid stacks can quickly spread and 'a rolling tube damages toes'.

Bricks / Blocks / Palletised Materials

- Take care ensure level base and restrict height of stack – many of these are removed by hand.
- If banding is damaged or materials are displaced in the pack do not stack other material on top.
- Leave sufficient space between different materials for safe removal.

Questions:

If you see a pallet with damaged banding, what must you not do?

How should large diameter pipes be stored?

How can you reduce the amount of handling?