

MATERIALS HANDLING AND STORAGE: MOVING EARTH AND MATERIALS

In construction, handling and storing materials involves different operations such as hoisting tons of steel with a crane; driving a truck loaded with concrete blocks; carrying bags or materials manually; and stacking palletized bricks or other materials such as drums, barrels, kegs, and lumber.

Whether moving materials manually or mechanically, applying general safety principles such as proper storage techniques, proper use of equipment and controls, and safe work practices can make the difference between life and death situations.



Falls, struck by, and crushing hazards are just a few of the dangers employees face when it comes to materials handling and storage, especially with the use of heavy mechanical equipment on the jobsite. Employers and employees should examine the work environment to detect any unsafe or unhealthful conditions, practices, or equipment and take corrective action before someone gets injured or killed.

Material handling equipment examples

OSHA divides mechanical materials handling equipment into two groups:

Earthmoving equipment — Primarily moves dirt around, but some can double as materials haulers. Examples include scrapers, loaders, crawlers, wheel tractors, bulldozers, off-highway trucks, graders, agricultural and industrial tractors, and similar equipment.