

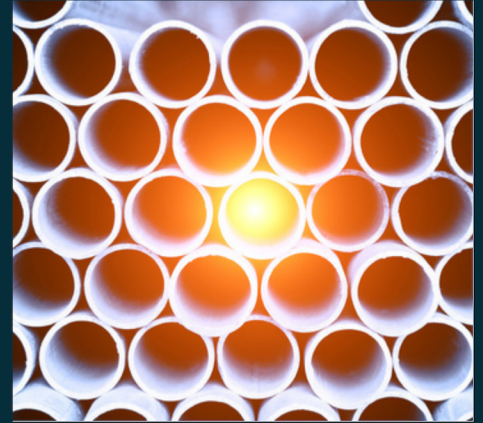
Safe Stacking of Materials

Prepare: Quiet location? No distractions? Talk aids ready?

Reason: Unsafe stacking can lead to serious injuries.

Why: Do not find yourself underneath an unsafe stack.

Outline: This talk will cover general points and stacking of bricks, timber, pipes and prefabricated panels.



General Points Of Stacking

- When handling materials wear work gloves and safety boots as necessary e.g. sharp edges or heavier loads.
- Only stack material in authorised areas. Never near doorways, accessways or on fire escape routes.
- Stack on a level surface and provide packing.
- Never make stacks higher than 3 times the minimum base width.

Q: Where should materials never be stacked?

- Consider in what order materials will be unloaded from a stack and then load it accordingly.
- Stack close to work area to reduce amount of handling.
- If material is being lowered by machine keep hands clear of load.

Q: What should you consider before loading material in a stack?

Bricks, Blocks And Palletted Material

- Ensure base of stack is level. Only stack two packs high.
- Ensure upper pack is loaded squarely onto lower one.
- If banding is damaged or materials are displaced in the pack, do not stack other materials on top.
- Leave sufficient space between pallets for safe removal.

NOTES

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Safe Stacking of Materials

Q: If you see damaged banding, what should you not do?

Timber

- Racks are the best method of storing small sized timbers.
- Joists and larger timbers should be placed on bearers.
- Try to keep different lengths in separate stacks.

Q: What should be used when stacking larger timbers?

Large Prefabricated Panels

- Stack flat or store secured in designed racks.
- Do not lean against parts of semi constructed buildings.
- Do not lean against temporary structures.
- Do not store upright where panels can be affected by wind.

Q: Where and how should panels be stacked?

Pipes And Tubes

- Where pipes are small in diameter, stack in racks.
- If large in diameter, securely chock at the base.
- Do not stack in pyramids as they can become unstable.
- Large concrete rings must be laid flat so that they cannot be moved or rolled by any person, especially children.

Q: How should you secure large diameter pipes?

Do you have any questions for me?

Questions for you

Q: How can you reduce the amount of handling?

Q: Where should you not stack large panels?

REMEMBER:

STACK SAFE – STAY SAFE

Sources

<https://www.hse.gov.uk/statistics/pdf/fatalinjuries.pdf>

<https://www.hse.gov.uk/statistics/industry/construction.pdf>

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