## Landscaping - PPE Stats and Facts

## **FACTS**

- 1. **Inadequate PPE Use:** Failure to wear appropriate PPE, such as gloves, safety glasses, or ear protection, increases the risk of cuts, eye injuries, or hearing loss from landscaping tasks like trimming or mowing.
- 2. **Improper Fit and Selection:** Poorly fitted PPE (e.g., loose gloves, non-ANSI-rated glasses) or choosing incorrect PPE for the task (e.g., no dust masks for pesticide application) reduces protection and safety.
- 3. Lack of Training: Workers untrained in proper PPE use, maintenance, and storage often misuse or neglect equipment, compromising its effectiveness in preventing injuries.
- 4. Exposure to Debris and Chemicals: Without safety glasses, face shields, or respirators, landscapers risk eye injuries from flying debris or respiratory issues from dust, pollen, or chemical sprays.
- 5. Noise-Induced Hearing Loss: Not using earplugs or earmuffs during prolonged exposure to loud equipment (e.g., leaf blowers, chainsaws) can lead to permanent hearing damage.
- 6. Foot and Hand Injuries: Absence of steel-toed boots or cutresistant gloves leaves workers vulnerable to crush injuries, punctures, or lacerations from tools, machinery, or sharp plants.

## **STATS**

- The Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) reported in 2020 that 30% of landscaping injuries could have been prevented with proper PPE, with eye and hand injuries being the most common among unprotected workers.
- WorkSafeBC noted in 2022 that 18% of landscaping worker injuries in British Columbia were linked to inadequate or

missing PPE, particularly gloves and safety glasses during tool use.

- A 2021 OSHA report found that 25% of landscaping industry safety violations involved failure to provide or enforce PPE use, contributing to injuries like cuts and chemical exposures.
- The Canadian Centre for Occupational Health and Safety (CCOHS) stated in 2023 that landscaping firms with mandatory PPE training and provision reduced injury rates by up to 22%.
- A 2022 Journal of Occupational and Environmental Medicine study estimated that 15% of landscaping hearing loss cases were due to insufficient use of ear protection during highnoise tasks.
- A 2021 Statistics Canada survey indicated that 10% of landscaping workers reported skin or respiratory issues from chemical exposure, often due to lack of respirators or protective clothing.
- The National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH) reported in 2023 that 20% of landscaping foot injuries were preventable with steel-toed boots, which were absent in 60% of injury cases.