

Workplace Cleanliness – Landscaping Stats and Facts

FACTS

Key hazards related to workplace cleanliness in the landscaping industry:

- 1. Slips, Trips, and Falls:** Cluttered work areas, improperly stored tools, and debris can create tripping hazards.
- 2. Pest Infestation:** Poor cleanliness, especially where organic materials like mulch, grass clippings, and soil are stored, can attract pests such as rodents and insects. These pests can carry diseases.
- 3. Chemical Exposure:** Improper storage and disposal of chemicals such as pesticides, fertilizers, and fuel can lead to leaks or spills. If not cleaned up promptly, these chemicals can pose serious health risks.
- 4. Increased Risk of Injuries from Tools and Equipment:** Tools and equipment that are not properly stored can cause accidents, such as cuts or puncture wounds.
- 5. Spread of Contagious Illnesses:** Poor hygiene practices, including inadequate cleaning of shared tools, equipment, and facilities, can contribute to the spread of illnesses among workers.
- 6. Fire Hazards:** Accumulation of flammable materials like dry leaves, paper, or cardboard, combined with improper storage of flammable liquids, can increase the risk of fire.

STATS

- The U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) reports that slips, trips, and falls account for approximately 27% of all workplace injuries across industries, including landscaping. Many of these incidents can be attributed to poor workplace cleanliness, such as cluttered walkways or wet surfaces.

- In Canada, the Canadian Centre for Occupational Health and Safety (CCOHS) reports that slips, trips, and falls are among the leading causes of workplace injuries, with poor housekeeping being a significant contributing factor.
- The landscaping services industry has a higher rate of both fatal and nonfatal injuries compared to the all-industry average. For instance, the rate of nonfatal occupational injuries and illnesses involving days away from work in landscaping was 176.8 per 10,000 full-time workers in 2018, significantly higher than the overall private industry rate of 89.7 .
- From 2011 to 2021, there were 1,072 work-related fatalities in the landscaping and groundskeeping industry, with 142 fatalities reported in 2021 alone.