

HOUSEKEEPING IS AN IMPORTANT PART OF YOUR JOB

by Jennifer C. Thompson

Your employer is not your mother! What do I mean by that, you ask? I mean, just like when you were young, your mother had to remind you to pick up after yourself. Now that you are on your own, you still need to be told sometimes. Housekeeping is a very important part of your job. Not only does it improve the overall appearance of your shop or work area, it shows that you take pride in where you work. The best way that you can help keep your work place clean is to pick up after yourself! Don't leave it for the next person to worry about.

Here are some reasons to keep your work area clean:

You reduce trip and fall hazards.

Increased production. You won't have to waste time looking for a misplaced tool. You will always know where your tools are when you put them where they belong after you use them.

If someone falls because of materials you left on the floor, you will feel guilty because you were a causal factor in the accident. Also, the injured worker may want to remind you of that!

You reduce a potential fire hazard by removing unneeded combustibles from the work area.

Here are some tips to maintain a clean work area:

Plan the job. Make a list of the needed tools/materials. This will help to minimize unnecessary clutter around your work area.

Develop a routine for cleaning up at the end of the shift or periodically during the shift.

Do not allow employees to eat, drink or smoke in the work area, not only because of litter problems, but also because of hygiene concerns.

This is not, by all means, all-inclusive. The point I am trying to make is to take responsibility for yourself and your work area! Remember, a clean work area is a productive work area and also enhances safety!