

Tool Box Talk

Safe Stacking of Materials

Unsafe stacking can lead to serious injuries. Don't allow yourself to be found underneath an unsafe stack.

General Points on Stacking

1. When handling materials, wear work gloves and safety boots as necessary, e.g. sharp edges or heavier loads
2. Only stack material in authorised areas, never in doorways, access ways or on fire escape routes
3. Stack on a level surface and provide packing
4. Never make stacks higher than 3 times the minimum base width
5. Consider in what order materials will be unloaded from a stack and then load it accordingly
6. Stack close to the work area to reduce the amount of handling
7. If material is being lowered by machine, keep hands clear of the load

Bricks, Blocks and Palletted Material

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

Timber

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

Large Prefabricated Panels

1. Stack on flat or store secured in designed racks
2. Don't lean against parts of semi-constructed buildings
3. Don't lean against temporary structures
4. Don't store upright where panels can be affected by wind

Pipes and Tubes

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

REMEMBER: Stack safe, stay safe

If any issues are raised that need clarifying contact your safety adviser