

Technical Production Commission's COVID-19 Reopening Guides

Tool and Equipment Sharing

Limit the sharing of tools between individuals where possible, as tools have a high risk of potential contact transfer. Assign and label specific tools, task-specific PPE, extension cords, pneumatic hoses, battery chargers, etc. to individual workers. It is recommended that this technique of individualized tools be explored first despite the possible up-front costs to reduce potential spread via surface transmission.

- Reduce tool sharing via job delegation utilizing techniques such as assigning only one fabricator to the use of a stationary saw, sewing station, dye vat, etc. [1]
- Cleaning supplies should be EPA List N-compliant or that have label claims against the coronavirus for cleaning frequently-touched surfaces like tools, handles, and machines. Supplies should be provided in sufficient numbers and locations for the cleaning of tools. [2]
 - Clean and disinfect any shared hand tools before and after use.
 - Clean and disinfect shared stationary tools. Users should clean handles, switches, fences, guards, and other high touch surfaces before and after each use.
- Install signage near any shared tools and collection areas to remind users of updated cleaning protocols.
- Fork Trucks, Pallet Jacks, Furniture Dollies/Carts, and Other Shared Equipment:
 - Limit access/use to a single person or worker group to reduce the possibility of contact transmission; add additional equipment and time to projects. [4]
 - Sanitize all hand-holds, controls, etc. according to CDC guidelines before and after each person uses the equipment. [5]
- PPE:
 - Eliminate shared PPE such as welding jackets, hard hats, and goggles. Assign each fabricator equipment that is clearly labeled. Provide cleaning and disinfecting products that are EPA List-N-compliant or that have label claims against the coronavirus and allow for additional time for cleaning within the work day. [6]
 - Clean and disinfect PPE after each use or shift. [7]
 - When non-disposable PPE such as hard hats, leather aprons, or welding hoods are unable to be individually assigned to each worker, clean and disinfect after each use. [8]
 - Select cleaning methods according to manufacturer's guidelines to avoid impacting flame-retardancy, water-proofing, filtration, etc. [9]
 - Apply CDC guidance for any reuse of N95 type face masks. [10, 11, 12, 13]
 - Store in a designated storage area or keep them in a clean, breathable container such as a paper bag between uses. Label each container to clearly identify the user.
 - Label and store so they do not touch to minimize the potential of cross-contamination.
 - Clean or dispose of storage containers regularly.
- Follow CDC and OSHA recommendations for gloves in the workspace.
 - Follow guidelines for the safe removal of gloves including washing one's hands immediately after gloves are removed. [14]
 - Dispose of one-time use gloves properly. [15]
 - Institute a process for collecting and sanitising reusable gloves. [16]
- Limit access to small and/or shared spaces such as tool rooms/cages and shop sinks to one person at a time. [17]

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Resources:

1. <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/guidance-manufacturing-workers-employers.html>
2. <https://www.osha.gov/SLTC/covid-19/construction.html>
3. <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/large-events/considerations-for-events-gatherings.html>
4. <https://www.osha.gov/SLTC/covid-19/construction.html>
5. <https://www.osha.gov/SLTC/covid-19/construction.html>
6. <https://www.osha.gov/Publications/OSHA-3151.pdf>
7. <https://www.osha.gov/laws-regs/regulations/standardnumber/1915/1915.152>
8. <https://www.osha.gov/laws-regs/regulations/standardnumber/1915/1915.152>
9. <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/disinfecting-building-facility.html>
10. <https://www.cdc.gov/niosh/topics/hcwcontrols/recommendedguidanceextuse.html>
11. <https://www.dol.gov/newsroom/releases/OSHA/OSHA20200424>
12. <https://www.cdc.gov/niosh/topics/hcwcontrols/recommendedguidanceextuse.html>
13. <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/conserving-respirator-supply.html>
14. <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/hcp/using-ppe.html>
15. <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/hcp/using-ppe.html>
16. <https://www.mechanix.com/us-en/discover/how-to-wash-your-gloves-and-fight-covid-19>
17. <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/prevent-getting-sick/social-distancing.html>

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