Workplace Hazards in Tiling

This fact sheet is for students undertaking work experience programs, and for their host employers. It can be used as a tool to assist with task planning, and to develop appropriate induction, training and supervision to minimise any risk to students while they are 'at work'.

*Students must be given instruction, and must be supervised at all times. Consideration must always be given to hazards when allocating tasks. If any risk exists, students must NOT undertake the activity.*

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Hazard</th>
<th>Possible Harmful Effects</th>
<th>Possible Employer Action to Prevent Injury / Illness</th>
<th>Preventative Action Students Can Take</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| Powered tools and non-powered tools (including tile cutting saw) | Amputation or lacerations – contact with cutting blade Equipment breaking up and ejection of material – eye injury Electric shock or electrocution Exhaust fumes | Students must NOT operate powered tools | Students must NOT operate powered tools  
♦ Provide instruction in the safe use of hand tools |
| Working at heights | Falls from heights | Students must NOT work at heights where there is any risk of a fall | Students must NOT work at heights where there is any risk of a fall |
| Mobile plant including mobile platforms | Falls from heights | Students must NOT operate or ride in mobile platforms | Students must NOT operate or ride in mobile platforms |
| Unlevelled terrain | Falls  
Cuts | ♦ Place appropriate safety signs  
♦ Require appropriate personal protective equipment (PPE) including safety footwear | ♦ Observe safety signs  
♦ Wear PPE including safety footwear |
| Asbestos in floor tiles  
Adhesives  
Solvent | Dermatitis, allergic reaction  
Exposure to solvent vapour could lead to loss of consciousness  
Exposure to asbestos can cause asbestosis and cancer | ♦ Assess the work area before commencing work  
♦ Provide Material Safety Data Sheet (MSDS) and risk assessments for hazardous substances  
♦ Provide appropriate PPE  
♦ Provide emergency eye wash facility | ♦ Read MSDS and follow safe working instructions  
♦ Use PPE provided (e.g. overalls, dust mask or respirator, appropriate shoes) |
| Manual handling (bending, reaching, stretching, pulling, lifting, repetitive motions, awkward posture) | Musculoskeletal disorders including sprains and strains | ♦ Document safe work procedures  
♦ Provide mechanical aids  
♦ Provide training in safe manual handling techniques  
♦ Encourage team lifts where appropriate | ♦ Use mechanical aids provided  
♦ Seek help when you think a team lift is required  
♦ Exercise: warm up/stretch before starting work, and cool down/stretch at end of the shift or working day |
| Noise | Long-term exposure to excessive noise can lead to hearing loss | ♦ Maintain powered tools to reduce noise  
♦ Limit exposure to excessive noise  
♦ Provide appropriate PPE | ♦ Use PPE (hearing protection) provided |
| Overhead obstructions, electrical cable conduits | Accidental contact with electrical cable could result in electric shock or electrocution | ♦ Document and follow safe work procedures  
♦ Provide appropriate warning signs | ♦ Observe warning signs  
♦ Report any concerns |
| Enclosed areas (e.g. basements) with insufficient lighting and/or lack of adequate ventilation | Slips, trips and falls  
Breathing difficulties  
Collapse of structures - crushing | Students must NOT enter enclosed areas if they may be exposed to any risk | Students must NOT enter enclosed areas if they may be exposed to any risk |
| Sexual harassment, workplace bullying | Emotional stress, fear and anxiety, physical illness | ♦ Establish work place policy  
♦ Provide staff briefings or training | ♦ Report any concerns immediately |