

# 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.**

Hazard	Possible Harmful Effects	Possible Employer Action to Prevent Injury / Illness	Preventative Action Students Can Take
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	<b>Students must NOT operate powered tools</b>  ◆ Provide instruction in the safe use of hand tools	<b>Students must NOT operate powered tools</b>  ◆ Use hand tools carefully, according to instructions
Working at heights	Falls from heights	<b>Students must NOT work at heights where there is any risk of a fall</b>	<b>Students must NOT work at heights where there is any risk of a fall</b>
Mobile plant including mobile platforms	Falls from heights	<b>Students must NOT operate or ride in mobile platforms</b>	<b>Students must NOT operate or ride in mobile platforms</b>
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	<b>Students must NOT enter enclosed areas if they may be exposed to any risk</b>	<b>Students must NOT enter enclosed areas if they may be exposed to any risk</b>
Sexual harassment, work place bullying	Emotional stress, fear and anxiety, physical illness	◆ Establish work place policy ◆ Provide staff briefings or training	◆ Report any concerns immediately

