

TOOLBOX TALK

HEAD PROTECTION



Thousands of head injuries occur each year in the construction industry. Injuries range from major concussions to death, minor abrasions to trauma, even electrocution. Most of these injuries occurred when workers were not wearing head protection. Hard hats lessen these kinds of injuries because they are designed with a hard outer shell and a suspension system inside. Depending on the kind of hard hat, hard hats protect your head from some or all of the following hazards: impact, falling and flying objects, electrical shock and burns, and hair entanglement in equipment.

Hard hats are a very common and sensible requirement on construction sites. Always wear yours when required. Look for hard hats that have water-resistant and slow-burning materials. Purchase a hard hat only if it identifies the manufacturer's name and the **ANSI designation Z89.1**. Check for instructions explaining the proper method of adjusting and replacing the suspension and headband.

TOOLBOX TALK

HEAD PROTECTION

When using head protection / hard hats, know these things:

1. Be aware of "HARD HATS REQUIRED" signs and rules.
2. Which type of hard hat is necessary.
3. How to put on, wear and take off your hard hat. When the headband is adjusted to the right size for you, it provides sufficient clearance between the shell and the headband (and your skull).
4. How to properly care for and maintain, and when to dispose of your hard hat.
 - Each use check for cracks (including hairline cracks), dents and wear. Replace hard hats that are cracked or that look chalky or dull.
 - Wash your hard hat (especially the sweatbands and cradles) once a month in warm, soapy water and rinse thoroughly, also in warm water.
 - Don't paint a hard hat because paint contains solvents that can reduce a shell's protection.
 - Pay special attention to the condition of the suspension system because of the important part it plays in absorbing the impact of a blow. Look for torn cradle straps, broken sewing lines, loose rivets, defective lugs and other defects.
 - Do not put holes in the shell for ventilation. Doing so lessens the protective capabilities of a hard hat and eliminates its electrical protection.
 - Only use stickers made for hard hats. The adhesive of ordinary stickers can degrade the shell.
 - Don't store a hard hat in the rear window of your vehicle. Sunlight and heat do damage.

