

Finding and fixing hazards

A safer workplace starts with spotting and addressing hazards before injuries happen.

Spot the hazard: Ask the right questions

- Have you or a coworker experienced a near miss recently?
- Have you or a coworker been injured on the job?
- Do you feel discomfort or pain during or after a task?
- What's your least favorite part of your job?

How to fix the hazard

Ask yourself these questions in order:

1. Can you eliminate the hazard?
 - Dispose of hazardous chemicals
 - Clear walkways of tripping hazards
 - Remove broken tools*(Elimination is the ideal solution whenever possible)*
2. Is there a safer way to do the job?
 - Use smaller, lighter containers
 - Choose the right tool for the task
 - Switch to a less hazardous chemical
3. Can you reduce exposure to the hazard?
 - Install point-of-operation exhausts
 - Ensure all safety guards are securely in place
 - Use equipment like lift tables or hoists to handle heavy materials
4. Can you adjust procedures and provide training?
 - Post safety signs in clear, visible areas
 - Work with coworkers to use “team lifts” for heavy tasks
 - Rotate jobs to minimize repetitive motion injuries



5. If none of the above work, can personal protective equipment (PPE) protect you?
 - Wear safety helmets on construction sites
 - Use ear plugs in noisy environments
 - Wear eye protection where flying debris is possible

By asking these questions and taking action, you can make your workplace safer for everyone.