

Workplace Hazards in Landscaping

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
Machinery (including graders, back hoes, bob cats, mowers, post hole diggers, chainsaws, powered hand tools)	Amputation, crushing, cuts Hearing loss (following prolonged exposure to excessive machinery noise)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Ensure only trained operators carry out the work ◆ Keep safe distances between the work and other people (workers and members of the public) ◆ Provide appropriate personal protective equipment (PPE) including hearing protection 	<p>Students must NOT operate hazardous machinery</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Machinery operations (such as earth moving, post hole digging) may be observed from a safe distance
Electricity (including electrical extension leads to hand held equipment used out of doors – such as drills, nail guns)	Electric shock, electrocution	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Do not use electrical equipment near water or in wet weather ◆ Ensure electrical equipment and leads are regularly inspected, tested and tagged ◆ Lock out and tag faulty equipment: e.g. DANGER - DO NOT USE 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Be aware of any potential for electrical equipment or leads to make contact with water ◆ Immediately report any electrical fault in equipment or leads (including extension leads)
Slips, trips and falls (working on uneven surfaces, slippery or loose ground, embankments)	Broken bones, sprains and strains	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Assess terrain and required tasks ◆ Provide appropriate training ◆ Remove fall and tripping hazards (e.g. holes not filled in, electrical leads left on the ground) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Wear appropriate footwear (boots or sturdy shoes) ◆ Do not undertake any work at height, or near an edge from which you might fall
Hazardous substances and dangerous goods (including pesticides, herbicides, petrol for vehicles, chainsaws and mowers)	Skin contact or accidental swallowing of chemicals (e.g. from a splash) can result in nausea, allergic reaction and/or poisoning Fumes can cause headache, nausea, dizziness, vomiting	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Use the least hazardous product for each job ◆ Provide safety information on labels <i>and</i> through Material Safety Data Sheets (MSDS) ◆ Provide appropriate PPE ◆ Label all containers ◆ Provide chemical disposal bags or bins 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Follow safe handling procedures ◆ Wear PPE (including gloves, mask, overalls) where provided ◆ Dispense and mix chemicals in well-ventilated areas ◆ Make sure chemicals are not decanted into unlabeled containers ◆ Clean up spills immediately (and dispose of waste material safely)
UV radiation	Sunburn, skin cancer	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Provide shade where practicable ◆ Provide appropriate headgear, PPE and sunscreen 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Wear appropriate clothing to minimise UV radiation exposure ◆ Use PPE and sunscreen
Heat and cold	Fatigue, heat stress in hot and/or humid conditions. Diminished concentration can result in injuries if safety measures are not followed	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Provide regular rest breaks ◆ Provide shade where practicable ◆ Re-schedule work if extreme weather conditions present risk ◆ Provide water in hot weather ◆ Provide appropriate PPE 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Be aware of weather conditions – rest and seek assistance if you feel that heat or cold may be affecting you ◆ Wear clothing appropriate to the conditions ◆ Take regular rest breaks in shade
Manual handling (bending, reaching, pulling, lifting)	Musculoskeletal disorders, including sprains and strains	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Provide mechanical aids ◆ Use team lifting 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Follow instructions and training ◆ Seek help when you think a team lift is required
Sexual harassment, work place bullying	Emotional stress, fear and anxiety, physical illness	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Establish work place policy ◆ Provide staff briefings or training 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Report any concerns immediately