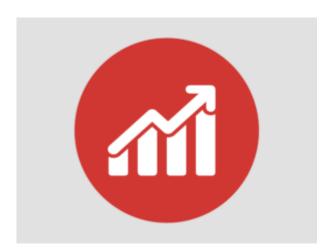
## Safe Materials Storage — Landscaping Stats and Facts



## **FACTS**

Key hazards related to safe materials storage in the landscaping industry:

- 1. **Improper Stacking and Stability:** Materials that are not stacked properly can shift or collapse, leading to injuries from falling objects.
- 2. **Chemical Storage Issues:** Improper storage of chemicals such as pesticides, fertilizers, and herbicides can lead to spills, leaks, and the release of toxic fumes.
- 3. **Fire Hazards:** Storing flammable materials like gasoline, oils, or dry organic matter (e.g., mulch) inappropriately can increase the risk of fire. These materials should be stored in designated, fire-resistant areas with appropriate fire suppression measures in place.
- 4. **Ergonomic Hazards:** Poorly organized storage areas can lead to ergonomic injuries, such as strains or sprains, when workers have to lift heavy materials from awkward positions or heights.
- 5. Exposure to Hazardous Substances: Inadequate labeling or mixing of stored materials can lead to accidental exposure to hazardous substances.
- 6. **Tripping and Slipping Hazards:** Poor storage practices, such as leaving materials in walkways or not cleaning up spills promptly, can create tripping and slipping hazards.
- 7. **Pest Infestation:** Improper storage of organic materials like mulch, compost, or plant waste can attract pests, including rodents and insects. These pests can create health hazards for workers.

## STATS

- The BLS reports that in 2020, there were approximately 38,500 injuries related to material handling, which includes improper stacking, storing, and moving of materials.
- In Canada, the Canadian Centre for Occupational Health and Safety (CCOHS) notes that material handling injuries are common in industries involving physical labor. Material storage injuries account for a significant portion of workplace injuries across labor-intensive sectors.
- Material handling incidents, including improper storage, contribute to about 20-25% of all workplace injuries in industries like construction and landscaping.

