

Empty skids and pallets

Working with empty skids and pallets may feel like a boring, mundane task. However, injuries are caused by improper handling of materials such as these.

Improper lifting is a source of accidents incurred by workers. Lifting is a fundamental movement while handling empty skids and pallets.

Let's review a few easy steps you can take to help reduce the amount of possible injuries. Workers should examine skids and pallets for exposed splinters, loosened nails, broken slats and other deficient or weak areas. Faulty skids and pallets should be separated and labeled for reject or repair. Your Business Insurance Specialists

Lifting should always be done cautiously. Even if you're strong enough to lift a pallet by yourself, always use two people because skids are large, awkward materials. Lifters should be positioned across from each other.

In unison, bend your knees and then lift by straightening your legs. Be sure to keep your back straight to avoid strains or pulls. Protective gear will help avoid injury, too. Wear leather work gloves to protect your hands and steel toe boots to protect your feet in the event that the skid is dropped.

Proper storage of skids and pallets is a must. To ensure that the piles of skids remain stable, stack them evenly and with care. Limit stacks to only four feet high with the pallets kept flat and not stood on end.

Ensure that aisles and doorways are not obstructed by stacks or individual pallets. Don't hinder access to electrical boxes, fire extinguishers, or other emergency equipment. To avoid a trip hazard, do not walk or step on skids or pallets.



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Empty skids and pallets *cont.*

If units are designated to be thrown away, use a truck or dolly when moving the stacked load. Watch out for nails, broken slats and splinters. If the pallets are to be burned, follow all safety and fire regulations so that the pallets are safely disposed of.

Handling empty skids and pallets is a necessary part of many jobs. Some of the major safety considerations have been covered here.

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