

Landscaping Work Safety



Architectural landscaping involves more than just planting and soil. It can include carpentry, stone, concrete work, and materials such as mulch and rock.

Be familiar with the job site where you will be working. A landscaping plan that includes materials and site layout can help you plan the proper order of material delivery and management, along with the necessary tools and equipment.

Call 811—the Underground Service Alert—to get the location of underground utilities so that you can avoid disturbing them. Mark underground and overhead utilities and power lines on the plan to prevent accidental contact.

Have the proper Personal protective equipment (PPE).

Personal protective equipment (PPE) prevents injuries. Sturdy work boots protect your feet from cutting blades and crushing injuries from large equipment and heavy landscape materials. Gloves protect your hands from scrapes, cuts, and punctures. Impact-resistant safety glasses and/or face shields protect your eyes from flying debris,

and UV lenses can offer further protection from the sun. Earplugs and earmuffs prevent hearing loss from loud equipment.

Know and respect the tools and equipment.

Power equipment used to shape the landscape, such as trenchers, tillers, and bobcats, can cause serious injury and death if not used properly. Read the instructions and get training on the equipment you use. Know where the moving, cutting, and rotating parts are and keep clear of them. Inspect power equipment before each use to ensure guards and safety switches work properly. Never leave running power equipment unattended.

Maintain good housekeeping on the job site!

Store materials properly where they will not cause slip, trip, and fall hazards or engulf workers. When moving heavy materials around the job site, use mechanical lifting devices or a team to lift items. Secure loads so they don't shift positions while you lift them. Keep items close to your body and lift them with your legs, not your back.

Remember the elements you're working in

Know basic first aid and keep a first aid kit on the job site to treat minor injuries. Have shade available and stay hydrated to avoid heat illness. Layers of clothing help you respond to changes in the temperature. Wear sunscreen, a hat, and long pants and shirts to protect your skin from sun exposure.