

Proper storage of materials on pallets is crucial to prevent accidents, injuries, and property damage in the workplace. Here are several safety tips for safely storing materials on pallets:

- **Inspect Pallets:** Before loading a pallet, inspect it for damage such as broken boards or protruding nails. Damaged pallets should be repaired before use or taken out of service.
- **Select the Right Pallet:** Choose pallets that are appropriate for the size and weight of the materials they will be holding.
- **Stack Materials Evenly:** Distribute the weight of the materials evenly across the pallet to maintain stability and prevent tipping.
- **Interlock Bagged Materials:** Bagged materials should be stacked by stepping back the layers and cross-keying the bags at least every 10 bags high to prevent sliding, falling or collapse.
- **Avoid Overhang:** Do not allow materials to overhang the edges of the pallet, as this can create an unbalanced load and increase the risk of falling objects.
- **Secure Materials:** Use appropriate methods to secure materials to the pallet, such as shrink wrap, strapping, or banding to prevent shifting or falling during storage or transport.
- **Flat and Level Surface:** Place pallets on a flat and level surface to ensure stability and prevent tipping or sliding.
- **Aisle Clearances:** Maintain clear aisles and passageways around pallets for easy access and safe material handling.
- **Keep Doorways Clear:** Never block doorways with pallets or other stored materials, even temporarily. Emergency exits must always remain free of obstructions.
- **Weight Limitation:** Do not exceed the weight capacity of storage shelves or platforms. These are typically labeled with their weight capacity, and this limit should never be exceeded.

- **Maintain Adequate Overhead Clearance:** The minimum vertical clearance between sprinklers and material stored below shall be 18 inches minimum, to prevent the stored material from interfering with the spray of water from a sprinkler head during a fire.

By following these safety tips, employers and workers can minimize the risks associated with storing and transporting materials on pallets, promote workplace safety, and prevent accidents.