General Safety Reminders

⇒ All employees shall comply with OSHA, BOCA, and Georgia Tech policies and procedures when performing plumbing work.
⇒ Inspect equipment and tools for safety hazards before each use.
⇒ All hand and power tools shall be handled in a safe manner.
⇒ Proper personal protective equipment is to be worn at all times. Some particular instances include:
  • Eye protection shall be worn when using tools, chemicals, or when working in areas where foreign matter may enter the eyes.
  • Ear protection shall be used when entering areas of unsafe noise levels or when near equipment producing unsafe noise levels.
⇒ Do not work on live steam lines or hot water lines before securing cutoff valves. Follow Georgia Tech EHS Lockout/Tagout and Confined Space procedures.
⇒ When not in use, all flammable materials must be stored in a Flammable Storage Cabinet.
⇒ Care shall be taken when filling equipment with fuels by turning equipment off and letting it cool before refueling. Fuels shall be stored in approved containers.
⇒ Use fall protection and other precautions when working at heights.
⇒ Use of ladders shall comply with the appropriate Georgia Tech EHS guidelines.
⇒ Keep work areas clear of clutter and equipment.
⇒ Learn and use safe lifting techniques.
⇒ Report all incidents to your supervisor immediately.

Georgia Tech EHS
General Safety Contacts:
Aleece Foxx - Safety Manager
(404) 385-0263

SAFETY BROCHURE
Plumbing Safety Guide

Health and Safety Hazards

Plumbing Equipment Safety

General Safety Reminders

⇒ Know where the Materials Safety Data Sheet (MSDS) book is kept and how to read an MSDS.
⇒ Check labels of all chemicals and MSDS’s for ingredients, hazards, protective procedures, and PPE required.
⇒ Precautions shall be taken to avoid inhaling dangerous vapors by using proper ventilation and/or properly fitted respirators.

Georgia Institute of Technology
Environmental Health & Safety
490 10th St., 3rd Floor
Atlanta, GA 30318-0465
Phone: (404) 894-4635
Fax: (404) 894-5042
Website: www.ehs.gatech.edu

24-Hour Emergency Contact Number
(404) 216-5237
Health and Safety Hazards

Plumbers work in a variety of settings, some of which are hazardous. Some of the main occupational hazards include:

- Exposure to lead, adhesives, solvents, solder, sulphur dioxide, and other toxic or carcinogenic substances
- Proximity to flammable or combustible materials
- Working in awkward positions, or performing awkward manual tasks
- Lifting heavy objects
- Exposure to extreme temperatures - burns from steam or hot water
- Working in confined spaces
- Working at heights
- Risk of eye injury from flying particles
- Slips, trips, and falls
- Working with a variety of specialized tools

Plumbing Equipment Safety

- Welding Equipment
  - Welding equipment shall only be used by trained employees.
  - Welding shall be performed in designated areas.
  - Areas shall be free of flammables and properly ventilated.
  - Appropriate PPE shall be worn.
  - Contact EHS Fire Safety and complete a Hot Work Permit before cutting, blazing, or welding.

- Bench Grinders and Hand Grinders
  - Should be adjusted to manufacturer’s specifications with the proper safety guards in place.
  - Inspect grinding wheels for cracks and damage before use.
  - If damaged, DO NOT USE until replaced.
  - Avoid breathing dust from grinding by wearing a facemask or properly fitted respirator.
  - DO NOT operate bench grinders or hand grinders unless trained to do so.

- Sewer Cables (Plumber’s Snake)
  - Only trained employees shall work with sewer cables.
  - Proper PPE shall be worn when working with sewer cables.
  - DO NOT wear loose clothing or jewelry that may become entangled and cause injury.

- Steam Equipment and Piping
  - Only trained employees shall work on steam equipment or piping.
  - Georgia Tech EHS Confined Space and Lockout/Tagout procedures shall be followed.
  - Proper PPE shall be worn.