

PROTECTIVE FOOTWEAR

Safety Topic V6-0418

Personal Protection

OSHA requires that adequate foot protection be used whenever the work conditions pose hazards that could cause a foot injury.

When determining footwear requirements, many factors should be considered during the hazard assessment process, including:

- Work Operations
- Tasks Performed
- Walking/Working Surfaces
- Environmental Conditions
- Chemical Contaminants
- Electrical Hazards



- Because every organization, work facility and job site is unique, there may be different footwear requirements for the work location, or the specific task being performed.
- It may be beneficial to choose footwear that has deep treads or patterns and/or that are oil-resistant.
- If needed, select protective footwear that provides a steel or composite toe.
- Adding cost-effective accessories like quality insoles can make boots more comfortable.
- While offering optimal protection, it's a misconception that work shoes or boots are typically uncomfortable or even painful to wear. But if your protective footwear doesn't fit properly, then they probably won't be comfortable.
- Clean and inspect your protective footwear on a regular basis.
- Shoes and boots should be replaced when the tread pattern is gone from the rear two-thirds of the heel.
- If you aren't clear on the protective footwear requirements for your work location, ask for clarification to ensure you are safe and compliant.

Discussion

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What features do you think are best to have in protective footwear?

What should you do if your work shoes are uncomfortable?