

SCAFFOLD FALLING OBJECTS

OSHA Standard 1926.451(h)(1) *In addition to wearing hardhats each employee on a scaffold shall be provided with additional protection from falling hand tools, debris, and other small objects through the installation of toeboards, screens, or guardrail systems, or through the erection of debris nets, catch platforms, or canopy structures that contain or deflect the falling objects.*

- All workers on or near the supported scaffold must wear hard hats.
- Additional protection from falling hand tools, debris, and other small objects must be provided.
- Where tools, materials, or equipment are piled to a height higher than the top edge of the toe board, paneling or screening extending from the toe board or platform to the top of the guardrail must be erected for a distance sufficient to protect employees below.
- In some instances, the erection of debris nets, catch platforms, or canopy structures may be needed to contain or deflect potential falling objects.
- The area below the scaffold to which objects can fall may need to be barricaded to prevent workers and pedestrians from entering a hazardous area.
- If falling objects are too large or heavy to be contained or deflected, then those items must be secured and placed away from the edge.

Toe boards are used for falling object protection and must:

- withstand a force of at least 50 pounds
- be at least 3½-inches high from the top edge to the level of the walking/working surface
- be securely fastened in place at the outer edge of the decking
- not have more than ¼-inch clearance above the walking/working surface
- be solid or with openings not over 1-inch



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Discussion

What are the common causes of objects falling from scaffolding?

How can we improve our existing practices to prevent falling object incidents?