

# SAFETY TALK WORKPLACE CLUTTER

## Keeping worker's safe:

Employees at every level of a company have safety responsibilities when it comes to reducing clutter, as this creates a balanced workplace with a priority of protecting employees and others. However, “employers” have the greatest responsibility under the Alberta OHS legislation to ensure the work site is free from hazards, such as workplace clutter that occurs in resident/client rooms.

Employers, Managers, and Supervisors must listen to and address these concerns about workplace safety as quickly as they can to ensure workers can complete their work safely. Investigate all claims of unsafe work conditions or practices to show employees you take their safety seriously and take responsibility for maintaining the health of your team.



The word “housekeeping” doesn’t just mean removing dust, cleaning floors and surfaces. In a work setting, it means much more. Housekeeping is crucial to safe workplaces. It can help prevent injuries and improve productivity and morale, as well as make a good first impression on visitors. It also can help an employer avoid potential fines for non-compliance, should injuries occur where appropriate controls were not in place.

A cluttered workplace can lead to ergonomic issues and possible injuries because workers have less space to move.

Keep the layout in mind so workers are not exposed to hazards as they walk through or work in these rooms.

Housekeeping should be more than a one-time initiative – it should continue through monitoring and auditing. Keep records, maintain a regular walkthrough inspection schedule, report hazards, and train employees to help sustain housekeeping.



**\*Experts agree that policies need to be developed and put in writing, regarding clutter in resident rooms for staff and resident safety.**

In addition, housekeeping should have management’s commitment, so workers realize its importance.

“Every worker does have a role, If they see something is becoming a problem, they need to report it.” and Management needs to address it!