

Construction Boots

Proper footwear for the job is essential to protect employees. Injuries can occur because of inadequate soles, spliced laces, or improper footwear such as sneakers or sandals. It is important to replace worn out shoes in order to ensure that employees continue to have the appropriate protective equipment for the hazards present in their surroundings.

Here are some general guidelines to help keep your feet safe while at work:

- Discard shoes that have run-down heels or flapping soles.
- Worn soles will not protect your feet and thus should not be used.
- Replace worn laces.
- Wet concrete is mildly caustic and requires the use of overshoes.
- Keep feet **warm** and **dry** to prevent Trench Foot.
- Asphalt and hot roofing require heavy boots.
- Steel shanks will help prevent punctures caused by nails or other sharp objects.
- Steel toed boots protect your feet from being crushed.
- When working with electricity, use insulated shoes or boots approved for electrical work.

When additional protection is required in a particular work area, protect your feet by using the appropriate type of work shoe. Construction operations requiring special types of boots include the following:

- When working on hot asphalt, wear shoes that have extra thick soles, or use wooden sandals attached to your boots.
- Welders should wear leggings over their boots to protect their feet from hot metal.
- Work in extremely cold environments may require shoes that have rubber soles, with leather uppers and liners to protect employees from frostbite.
- When working in wet conditions, waterproof/water resistant boots will keep your feet dry.

The American National Standards Institute (ANSI) provides impact and compressive test guidelines for protective footwear. ANSI also provides standards for various types of protective footwear; refer to www.ansi.org. If you are unsure of the best boot for your work, ask your foreman or superintendent.

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