



SB034: Cuts, Lacerations, Punctures & Amputation - Landscaping Safety

Landscaping work carries risks, especially from sharp tools, leading to frequent hand injuries. To ensure safety, follow the hierarchy of controls: eliminate hazards, implement engineering solutions, provide training, and use protective equipment. Stay vigilant, use the right tools, and avoid shortcuts, particularly during tasks like trimming, mowing, and handling debris.

Common Landscaping Hazards

- Dull or improper tools
- Powered equipment (mowers, trimmers, chippers)
- Missing or damaged guards
- Clutter, debris, hidden sharp objects
- Taking shortcuts / rushing tasks
- Lack of PPE
- Improper training or tool use

Key Prevention Measures

Elimination (Most Effective)

- Remove hazards whenever possible
- Keep work areas clear of debris and sharp objects

Engineering Controls

- Ensure guards are installed and in good condition on:
 - Mowers, trimmers, saws, chippers, shredders
- Keep blades sharp and well-maintained
- Use the right tool for the job
- Remove damaged tools from service immediately

Administrative Controls

- Train employees to recognize hazards
- Inspect tools and equipment before each use
- Use safe work practices:
 - Cut away from your body
 - Stabilize materials before cutting
 - Never hold materials while cutting with one hand
- Provide required PPE:
 - Gloves
 - Safety glasses
 - Steel-toe boots

Personal Safety Practices

- Keep hands visible and clear of hazards
- Never bypass guards or work on running equipment
- Avoid loose clothing and jewelry
- Always wear assigned PPE
- Inspect PPE before use