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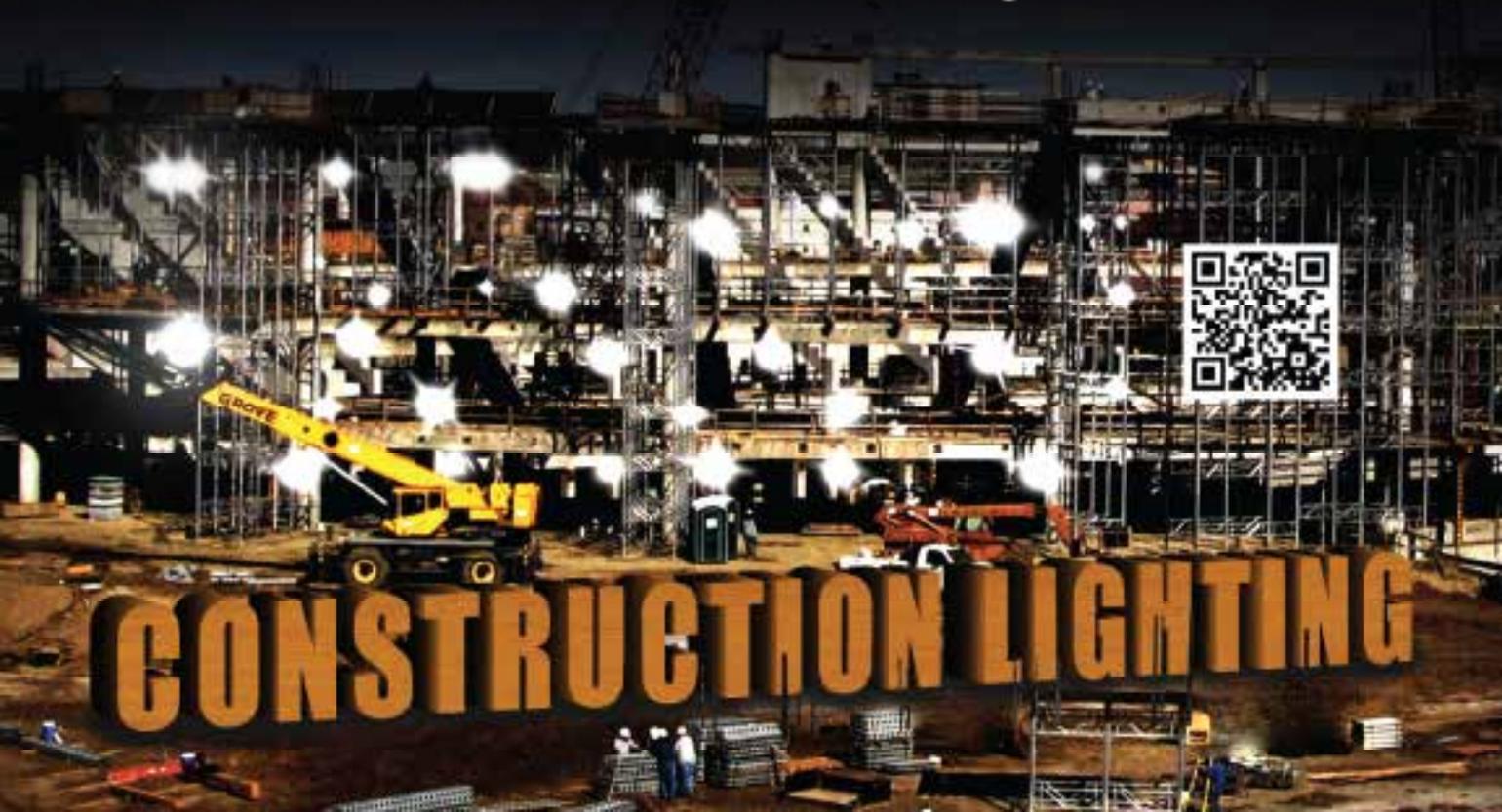
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Top 6 Construction Sites



Top 6 Hazards!

By Christopher M. Hunter

Construction sites are considered the most potentially hazardous and accident-prone parts of any working environment. Excessive exposure to these construction site hazards exposes workers to injury and possible death. To prevent this, a company should know how to identify and be aware of all possible dangers that can be encountered during normal business operations. The Occupational Safety & Health Administration (OSHA) wants every employee to have sound knowledge of their susceptibility to harm or injury in the workplace.

Listed below are the top six construction site hazards identified by the Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA):

1. **Electrical-** Electricity is one of the greatest hazards to people either at home or at work. Power line workers, electricians and electrical engineers work continuously with electricity and can face exposure to this hazard on a daily basis. At the construction site, the best way to prevent this kind of hazard is for the power line workers to be a safe working distance away from the power lines. Other precautionary measures includes guarding and insulating of the vehicle from which they might work. This would help prevent electrical hazards from injuring them while working.
2. **Excavation and Trenching** - OSHA has recognized excavation and trenching as the most hazardous construction site operation. From the year 2000 to 2006, the United States Bureau of Labor and Statistics (USBLS) recorded 271 worker fatalities in trenching and cave-ins. These hazards are preventable yet injuries related to these hazards are still happening. Both employer and employee must follow safety standards and use protective equipment to minimize hazards while trenching and excavating.
3. **Falls** - Falling from scaffolding over six feet or a fixed ladder over twenty feet is the most dangerous and common construction site hazard. Falling from high places such as a ladder, scaffolding and roofs account for more than fifty percent of the accidents that happen at the workplace. The usual cause of this incident is slipping, tripping and using unstable ladders. There are thousands of reasons for fall hazards and to eliminate such risks, employers must have a fall protection program as part of any overall workplace safety and health program. Workers should be trained to identify and evaluate fall hazards and be fully aware of how to control exposure to such risks as

well as know how to use fall protection equipment properly.

4. **Stairways and Ladder** - According to OSHA's construction safety and health standards, stairways and ladders are major sources of injuries and fatalities among construction workers. These recorded injuries are serious enough to put a worker out on sick leave. OSHA registered approximately 24,882 injuries and 36 fatalities yearly that are related to falling from stairways and ladders used at the construction site. To prevent such accidents and injuries, employers and employee must comply with OSHA's general rule for the safe use of ladders and stairways.
5. **Scaffolding** - Every year, approximately 60 workers die by falling from scaffolding; one out of five construction site falls are fatal. The most potential risk of scaffolding is due to moving scaffold components; scaffold failure related to damage to its components; loss of the load; being struck by suspended materials; electrical shock; and improper set-up. Construction workers who assemble and dismantle scaffolding and work platforms at construction sites face the risk of serious injuries due to falls. The scaffolding hazard is addressed by stated OSHA standards. They give specific requirements for the maximum load, when to use scaffolding, bracing and the use of guardrails.
6. **Heavy Construction Equipment** - Approximately 100 construction site workers die each year due to heavy construction equipment. The main causes of such accidents includes: ground workers struck when a vehicle is backing up or changing direction; equipment rollovers that injure the operator; mechanics run over when brakes are not properly set; and ground workers crushed by falling equipment from backhoes, buckets, and other moving construction vehicles. To prevent this kind of risk, workers should follow all construction safety guidelines necessary to eliminate the exposure to such injuries and accidents.

Safety risks on construction site are unavoidable; however, these can be prevented if workers are instructed on how to identify the hazards that might be present at the work-site. The employer must establish proper safety standards that meet the maximum requirements of the Occupational Safety and Health Administration. This will ensure that workers will have a safe working environment during normal operation.

This is not meant to be an all-inclusive list of construction site risks; however, these top six items are certainly important ones that all construction site employers should be aware of and continually working to eliminate them from happening.

Christopher M. Hunter is an expert in commercial specialty trucks. To find out more about Dump Truck Sales, go to the main website at:<http://www.centraltrucksales.net/home>.

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Construction Site Safety Basics

By Lydia Quinn

Construction sites are extremely dangerous places to be in. Because of the kind of work involved, the construction workers face a very high risk of getting injured and are also prone to accidents. Moreover, the equipment that the workers wear to reduce the exposure to harmful chemicals and elements in itself can cause accidents because it tends to reduce their flexibility and restrict their movements. It is said that approximately two people die per week on construction sites across the country. Therefore it is very essential that people working on these kinds of sites follow some basic but important guidelines for their safety as well as the safety of others.

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General Guidelines for Construction Site Safety

For reducing or preventing injuries and accidents at the construction site, you have to begin with removing the unsafe conditions that exist as well as reduce the number of unsafe acts that need to be performed. But it is not possible to completely eliminate any of these conditions, as many times it is not predictable. Site workers must be given adequate training on safety issues and must be made to understand how critical it is for each one of them to practice the safety guidelines during work. Steps must be taken in advance to ensure that accidents are prevented as much as possible and if any hazardous situation arises, immediate steps must be taken to combat the situation and make sure that it does not recur.

Some of the areas where you can practice safety guidelines are as follows:

Safety Around Electrical Equipment

It is critical that all workers know the most danger prone areas before they start working. Since chances for getting electrical shocks are high, care must be taken to prevent it. It is essential for workers to wear rubber gloves and boots, which are insulated. Electrical wiring should not be strung across the work areas and water should not be allowed to accumulate and form puddles in these areas. It is good to treat all electrical equipment as energized until tested and found not to be so.

Scaling Equipment

Ladders should always be checked and maintained in good condition. If it is defective, it should be discarded immediately or marked such that no one will use it by mistake in the work place. The ladder rungs must be kept clean with no traces of oil and grease. Before use, they must be secured properly so that it does not get displaced while a worker is using it.

In a similar way, maintenance of scaffolding is also very important. Only under supervision must scaffolding be set up or dismantled. Fall protection should be provided at all times and employees should wear harnesses while working at heights.

Avoiding Falls

Ensure that debris is not left lying around in the construction site. Also, any equipment that is used during work should be carefully stored away after use and not left as it is, as workers might trip or slip on this equipment. Safety harnesses should always be worn if a worker is working at a height, as this is one

of the main reasons for death during construction. A person competent to assess the situation and see if any hazards exist should inspect all anchorage points on a regular basis.

Proper Lighting

Lighting is crucial when working inside a closed area, but especially working at night. The rate of construction site accidents skyrockets when working at night due to insufficient lighting. Proper lighting may include floodlights, barricade lights and especially lights on head gear.

Closed Spaces

And finally, when working in closed and confined spaces like pits and trenches, it is good to have one standby person who will have no other duties other than to watch the workers on the inside and act or rescue in case of emergencies.

By following these simple guidelines, life on a construction site can become safer and the risk of accidents can be reduced.

Lydia Quinn writes for Brandon Safety Lights, a leading provider of barricade lights and accessories. Visit us at: www.brandonsafetylights.com

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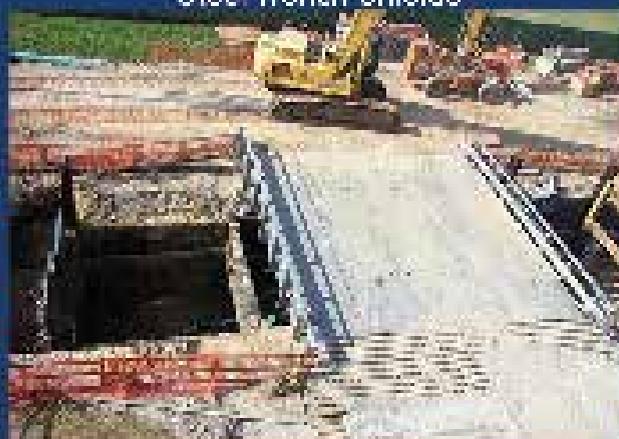
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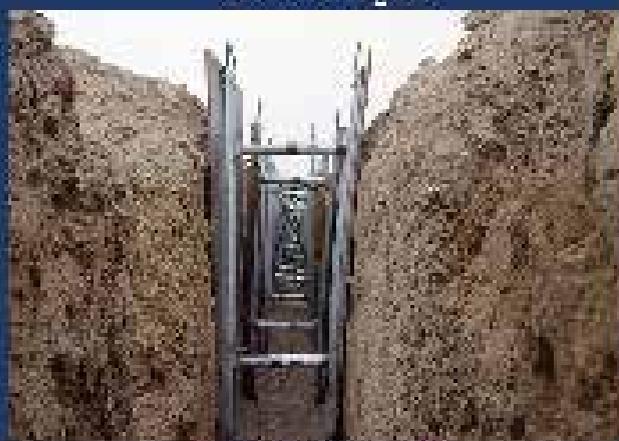
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Tips On Buying A Second Hand Wheel Loader

By Tom Jerrat



A wheel loader is a significant investment and many landscapers, earthmovers, arborists and construction operators may opt to purchase a second hand machine to lessen the cost. If you are thinking of buying a used wheel loader, ensure to thoroughly inspect the vehicle as there can be major problems lurking below its surface. In this article, we provide some tips on how to buy a second hand wheel loader.

Do your research.

Find out the price of a new loader and compare it to the price of the second hand one. You may be pleasantly surprised that a new machine may cost less than the second hand one as exchange rates have changed or the factory has expanded significantly. Also research on the particular model and make you are looking at. Read reviews, publications or product specifications to learn more about the strengths and weaknesses of the machine.

Find out the type of jobs the wheel loader has performed.

Has it been used to load from a stockpile, load and carry or dig materials? The wear and tear of a loader that performs loading and carrying jobs is different from the wear and tear of a loader that does stockpile-loading. Also, find out what type of material the loader has been working with. Different materials can introduce different sets of wear to the loader. For example, loading corrosive materials such as fertilizer causes more deterioration than loading sand and gravel.

Check the service history.

How many hours has the loader been put to work? You should not accept the hours shown on the meter as completely accurate as many used wheel loaders have worked overtime shifts. Do your best to investigate and verify the hours worked.

Consider the loader's original build quality and spare parts availability.

You may need to get some repairs done on the second hand loader so it is important to be able to acquire original spare parts whenever you need to. Steer clear of loaders that have been imported on a whim as it will be difficult, if not impossible to find parts.

Start your inspection by getting the unit serial number of the loader. The serial number will enable you to verify the year of manufacture.

Inspect the wheel loader at ground level and in good light.

Walk around the vehicle at least twice and learn as much as you can from its appearance. Take note of oil leaks, damage in tin work, doors, glass, tires, bucket and loader frame. As you move around the loader, take a look at the radiator, transmission, engine, batteries, lights and

wiring.

It will also be helpful to take plenty of photos so that you have something to refer to after the inspection.

How To Inspect A Used Wheel Loader

Buying a used wheel loader may seem like a good deal to many landscapers, earthmovers, arborists and construction operators with a tight operating budget. However, you must be prepared to thoroughly inspect a used wheel loader to determine if it's still in good working condition and if it's a worthwhile investment. In this article, we give you some guidelines on how to inspect each part of a used wheel loader.

Appearance

Slowly walk around the wheel loader, taking in as much as you can from its over-all appearance. Take note of any damage or repairs you observe. Check for sign of oil leaks, damage to the tin work, doors, glass, tires, radiator, bucket and loader frame. As you move around the loader, check the fluid in the radiator, transmission and batteries. Also inspect smaller items such as lighting and wiring. Have a good, long look at the loader. You will often know how hard the loader has been working and the degree of its wear and tear by



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closely looking at its appearance.

Tires and wheels

When inspecting the tires, the wheel loader must be on a level surface with all tires inflated to the same pressure. Check the size of the tires and inspect whether they have been relugged, recapped or have cuts. Pay close attention to the insides of the tires because this is where the cuts and damages are usually hidden. Estimate the wear of the tire. If you purchase the loader, will you still be able to use them or will they need replacing?

When inspecting the wheels, check the rims inside and out for damage. Watch out for loose nuts that have allowed the stud holes to elongate. This causes the wheel to keep going loose and poses a safety risk.

Brakes

If the wheel loader is fitted with outboard discs, inspect the callipers, pads, discs and hydraulic lines. Evaluate if replacement discs are needed as they can be expensive. If the wheel loader is fitted with inboard discs, inspection and testing can be done during the test drive.

Frame

Inspect the structural areas thoroughly. A misalignment or fracture in one area can cause major failure in another. Check for points or areas that have been previously repaired or welded. Also check if the outer and inner frame has been repaired or plated to reduce breakage and failure. Were the repairs done professionally?

Also take a look at the loader frame and check the pins and bushes for signs of deterioration. If you see any welded areas, check for cracks. Since you are looking at a second hand wheel loader, some wear and tear is expected but excessive wear in the loader frame can be very costly to have repaired.

Engine

If the engine starts easily and runs smoothly without any leaks or noises, you can safely say that it's in good condition. As the engine warms up, check if the gauges are working properly. If you observe bubbles or oil in the radiator, coolant in the engine oil, blue exhaust smoke, white exhaust smoke or excessive black exhaust smoke think twice before buying the used loader. These are signs of engine problems that will be expensive to have repaired.

Transmission

Similar to the engine, if the transmission is working smoothly and there are no obvious faults such as leaks or noises, then it's still in good condition. If you are feeling unsure, you may call the wheel loader dealer and ask them to conduct a pressure test in all ranges.

If the loader has hydraulic transmission and you observe a problem with it, you must call the dealer to have its components tested.

Bucket

Inspect the bucket for any sign of wear on its underside and back. Check for excessive wear at the bucket mounting points, particularly its bottom pins and bushes. Also, look for any cracks in all areas of the bucket. Bucket repairs are simple but they will cost you money especially if you need to replace the cutting edge, teeth and adaptor.

Check what still works and what doesn't.

Make an estimate of how much it will cost to make non-working parts operate again properly. Some repairs may be very costly. For example, check how strong all the pins and bushes are. Many cheaper brands will have these flogged out and require line boring. Replacing bushes and pins are significant expense. Also check carefully for mast and chassis cracks which will entail great expense to repair.

Some final tips

When buying a used wheel loader, your instincts will often tell you if the loader is an excellent find or not. If the cab has sloppy controls, worn foot pedals, rattling seats and worn-out seat covers, then you can safely assume that the loader has been heavily used for a long period of time. It will be wise to closely appraise each component of the loader such as the wheels, tires, bucket, loader frame, engine and transmission to help you assess the over-all condition of the vehicle. If you are still unsure if you should purchase a used wheel loader or invest in a new one, consult with a trusted wheel loader supplier or distributor as they can give you the best advice on which loader to purchase.

Buying a second hand wheel loader can often be tricky as the unit and repairs that it will need may cost you more than the price of a new wheel loader. Before making the decision to purchase a used wheel loader, do your research first. Find out how much a new wheel loader will cost and compare it to the cost of a second hand unit plus its repairs. You may be pleasantly surprised to realize that a new wheel loader may cost less. It will also help to consult with a trusted wheel loader supplier as they can give you the best advice on which loader will be a worthwhile investment for you.

This article was written by Tom Jerrat for Schaffer Loaders. Schaffer Loaders is the premier supplier of industrial quality German-built articulated, front end and wheel loaders in Australia. Visit schaffer-loaders.com.au for more information.



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FLEXIBLE

Pipe Couplings and Their Specific Applications

By Henry M Peterson

In the context of pipes and joints, a coupling is a round hollow object that serves as a joining element for two pipes. Flexible pipe couplings are typically used in specific applications that are prone to such issues as angular deflection, uneven joining surfaces, vibration and so on. In short, flexible couplings can be said to be suitable in most applications where a rigid coupling might not prove to be efficient.

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There could be several other reasons why flexibility in couplings is required. These include

- Variations in temperature could cause a proportional change in the dimensions of the pipe. Certain pipes tend to expand in higher temperatures and contract in lower temperatures. A rigid coupling is not capable of responding and adjusting to these changes whereas a flexible coupling is made of materials that can adjust to the dimensional variations.
- As material flows through pipelines at various pressures it causes the pipelines to deflect slightly. These deflections, if not secured by a coupling that's flexible, could eventually lead to leaks and pipe bursts.
- Vibration is another inevitable component of a piping system. The materials that are used in the manufacture of flexible pipe couplings are capable of absorbing vibrations, thus preventing damage to the pipeline and the materials it conveys.

Now that you know all these factors, it becomes evident that rigid couplings, though widely used, are not always the most ideal product for all types of applications. Flexible coupling products are usually manufactured from light-weight, durable and flexible materials such as reinforced plastics, PVC, or even ductile iron and asbestos cement.

There are a myriad of environments where these couplings are used. These include: sewage treatment plants, conveying systems, food and beverage sector, chemical industries, manufacturing and processing industries, gas and fuel distribution, building construction and more.

These components can be easily procured from a leading manufacturer or distributor of pipe couplings and sewer fittings. When you are procuring these components, you should look for factors such as:

- Ease of installation and replacement
- Durability and long service life
- Secure fitting mechanisms
- Light in weight
- Cost-effectiveness

There are various different types of flexible pipe couplings geared to different installation needs. You can find specific couplings for each of these requirements:

- Connecting two pipes that have different diameters

- Connecting pipes that may have a gap in between
- Connecting pipes that are not aligned perfectly
- Connecting pipes that are configured with angular deflections
- Connecting pipes that might have cracks and need repair couplings

Adopting a lackadaisical approach when investing in couplings can cause severe damage to your pipelines and piping systems at a later stage. Hence, it is always a prudent decision to invest in high-quality flexible pipe couplings to begin with.

Purchasing Pipe Couplings

Pipe couplings are an indispensable part of most pipelines and piping systems. These components are used for joining two pipes or executing a bend in a pipeline system. The joints and seams are known to be the most vulnerable part of a pipeline. This is the part that could turn out to be structurally weak, thus leading to leaks to even pipe bursts. But by securing joints and seams with the use of a high-quality coupling, this risk can be mitigated.

The couplings-also referred to as couplers-could vary in size depending on the size of the pipe they need to be fixed on. In fact,

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could be some couplings that measure over 5 feet in diameter. However, the more common variety of couplings are the ones that measure a few inches and are used on pipe lines in industrial, commercial, or residential facilities.

These couplings are available in rigid as well as flexible varieties. The flexible pipe connectors are used in pipelines that are prone to slight dimensional variations or deflections at the joints owing to temperature changes. These couplings play a very important part in keeping pipelines securely in place.

Couplers for pipes are found in a myriad of industrial sectors. These include HVAC applications, pulp and paper processing plants, cement manufacturing units, chemical processing plants, refineries, sewage treatment plants, food and beverage facilities, etc. They are also widely used in the construction industry.

- Pipe couplings should demonstrate at least some of these following desirable attributes: The fitting of the coupler is among the most important factors to consider. A coupling that doesn't securely hold together joints is a futile investment. It is important for the fitting to be water-tight, flexible to just the right degree, and strong at the same time.
- The other important traits are corrosion-resistant manufacturing materials. Pipelines could have caustic materials flowing through them, and this could cause the couplers to corrode. Oxidation and corrosion are phenomena that put the security of your pipeline at risk.
- The strength and durability of a coupler is another important aspect that one cannot afford to ignore. The couplings should ideally not crack under pressure. Much of this depends on the quality of materials used in the manufacture of such couplings.
- Things don't end at installation. Maintenance and repair are just as important. Thus, it is important that your chosen flexible pipe connectors are easy to install and just as easy to repair. You might want to check with your chosen distributor about the repair and maintenance costs of these components beforehand.

Finally, it is very vital to purchase only those components that comply with industry codes such as ASTM, UPC and so on. This will give you the assurance of buying safe and durable pipe couplings that last for several years.

For more information on flexible pipe couplings and sewer pipe fittings. You can search over internet on follow the links.



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Keeping Up With Trends

In Green Commercial And Industrial Plumbing

By Juanita Swindell

These days it is very important to conserve resources and as a result, money, especially in the business sector. Painted as the “bad guys” for years in terms of pollution and economic waste, business owners everywhere are now working hard to reverse that trend and thankfully the technology employed by commercial and industrial plumbing service contractors are helping them make that switch a lot easier to deal with. Ongoing education is the key to success, and this profession is quickly becoming a popular new employment field as a result.

Educational Trends in Green Technology

The goal of the new frontier in commercial and industrial plumbing education is to teach existing contractors and new students every way possible to comply with the government’s goals of water conservation and reducing greenhouse gas emissions. Once their education is completed, not only will students know how to use the new technology efficiently, they will also be able to teach their customers how they can actively employ that technology to meet their own conservation goals, as well as how it will save their businesses money in today’s economy.

This education goes way beyond just basic plumbing services or the latest in plumbing and supplies. It includes indoctrination in the fields of conservation, solar energies, recycling, alternative heating

and cooling systems, and the impact all of it has on the environment, especially climate impact. Consumer reports have shown that most companies are willing to pay for the best in conservation services and plumbers everywhere are taking advantage of that trend to introduce the best technology has to offer, from leak detection to upgrading their septic system to recycle waste water. Because of this new attitude, green plumbing is now one of the fastest growing employment sectors in the world, even to the point of garnering government scholarships to complete that training.

Examples of the Latest Technology

When anyone thinks of services that a plumbing contractor can provide, the first area they think of is the restroom, the area that also accounts for the biggest investment in equipment than any other area of a single business location. Just a few examples of this new green technology that is purchased on a daily basis for use today include toilets, faucets and urinals that come ready to install, and register high on the water conservation scale.

Less than a decade ago, the majority of toilets in use in a commercial and industrial plumbing installment required at least three gallons or more of water to be used in a single flush. Today, low flow toilets that only require slightly more than half a gallon per flush are popping up everywhere. The impact on water conservation is impressive, but then so is the impact on the monthly water bill.

The same can be said for the newest innovation in urinals, which are now completely waterless, thanks to drain cleaning by cartridges that flush out waste liquids and traps resident odors.

In a world where communicable diseases are becoming increasingly difficult to deal with, the best boon of all has been the sensor operated faucets, that not only save water by dispensing only when triggered, they also reduce the spread of germs by not requiring a human touch to operate. Going green is not only the popular thing to do; it is also the most intelligent thing to do today.

Want to know more about green conservation technology, and how commercial and industrial plumbing service providers can employ it best in your business? Contact the experienced professionals at Liberty Plumbing and Septic today for information on upgrading your plumbing needs for the future. Also check out our new page on Commercial And Industrial Plumbing.



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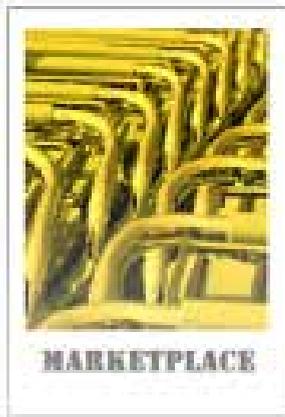
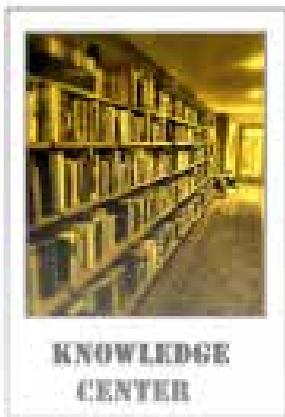
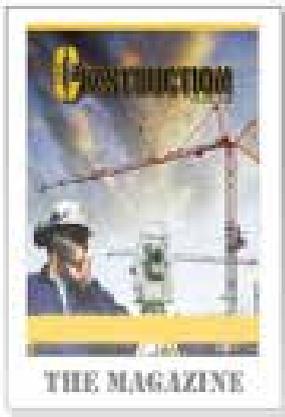


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