Housekeeping at work is as important as it is at home, especially if you want a safe workplace. People who must function every day in a messy, disorderly work environment have lower morale, although they may not be aware of the cause. But the safety ramifications of poor housekeeping in the workplace are even more important.

Poor housekeeping may result in employee injuries or even death, citations by OSHA (or another regulatory agency), and even difficulty in securing future work. How can such a seemingly “minor” issue such as housekeeping have such serious consequences?

Poor housekeeping practices can result in:
- Injuries when employees trip, fall, strike, or are struck by out of place objects.
- Injuries from using improper tools because the correct tool can’t be found.
- Lowered production because of the time spent maneuvering over and around someone else’s mess, and time spent looking for proper tools and materials.
- Fires due to improper storage and disposal of flammable or combustible materials and wastes.