

# Pre-shift skilled trades safety checklist

At PeopleReady Skilled Trades (PRST), safety starts before the work begins. Taking a few extra minutes to inspect your tools, equipment and work area can help prevent injuries, reduce downtime and keep projects moving safely and efficiently.

Here are the top items every skilled trades professional should check before starting work:

	YES	NO
Hard hat properly fitted and undamaged	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Safety glasses or goggles clean and scratch-free	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Gloves appropriate for the task	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
High-visibility clothing or vest correctly sized and worn	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Steel or composite toe boots in good condition	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Hearing protection available and functional	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Ladders inspected, and free from defects or damage	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Hand and power tools inspected and working properly	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Extension cords free from cuts or exposed wires	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Ground fault protection in place when required	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Proper machine guards installed	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Adequate lighting for tasks	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Materials stacked and secured safely	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Work area clear of slip, trip and fall hazards	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Emergency exits and pathways accessible	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Fire extinguishers accessible and inspected	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
New or changing hazards identified	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Weather conditions reviewed for outdoor work	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Attend available safety toolbox talks	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

# 5 Things You Should Always Remember

## 1. Housekeeping matters

A cluttered jobsite creates unnecessary risks. Loose materials, cords, tools and debris can quickly lead to slips, trips and falls. Keep walkways clear, store tools properly and clean up throughout the shift and not just at the end of the day.

## 2. Inspect your PPE daily

Personal protective equipment only works if it's in good condition. Damaged gloves, scratched safety glasses, cracked hard hats or worn harnesses can fail when you need them most. Always inspect your PPE before work starts and replace anything worn or defective immediately.

## 3. Don't rush the job

Shortcuts are one of the biggest causes of workplace injuries. Skipping lockout/tagout procedures, climbing without proper fall protection or using the wrong tool for the task can lead to serious injury. Take the extra time to do the job safely and correctly.

## 4. Stay aware of your surroundings

Construction sites, manufacturing facilities and industrial jobsites change constantly throughout the day. New hazards can appear quickly. Watch for moving equipment, overhead work, changing weather conditions and restricted areas at all times.

## 5. Speak up about unsafe conditions

If something doesn't look right, say something. Reporting hazards early can prevent injuries for everyone on site. Safety is a shared responsibility and every worker plays a role in protecting everyone on the job site.

## Prioritize safety at all times

Questions or concerns about your safety on the job? Please call your local PRST team.

**You can also learn more about our safety policies on our [Tradesperson Resource Center](#).**