

Repairing Sidewalks

Repairing sidewalks may seem like a routine task, but it involves several hazards that can lead to serious injuries if not properly managed. Workers are exposed to risks such as traffic, heavy equipment, uneven surfaces, dust, and concrete handling. This safety bulletin by RMI outlines the key safety practices to follow during sidewalk repair operations to ensure a safe and efficient work environment.



Hazards

Sidewalk repair work can expose crews to a variety of hazards, including:

- **Traffic exposure** from nearby roads or pedestrian pathways.
- **Trips and falls** due to uneven surfaces or debris.
- **Dust and silica** from cutting or breaking concrete.
- **Heavy lifting** of materials like concrete bags, forms, or tools.
- **Equipment hazards** from saws, jackhammers, mixers, and compactors.
- **Weather conditions** such as heat, rain, or cold affecting work and materials.

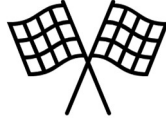


Site Preparation and Traffic Control

- Set up barricades, cones, and warning signs to alert pedestrians and vehicles.



- Use flaggers or spotters when working near traffic.
- Ensure clear walkways for pedestrians around the work zone.



Personal Protective Equipment (PPE)

- Wear high-visibility vests, hard hats, and steel-toed boots.
- Use eye protection when cutting or breaking concrete.
- Wear gloves to protect hands from sharp edges and chemicals.
- Use respirators or dust masks when working in dusty conditions.



Ergonomics

- Use proper lifting techniques with your legs, not your back.
- Get help or use equipment for heavy or awkward loads.
- Store materials in a way that prevents tripping or falling hazards.



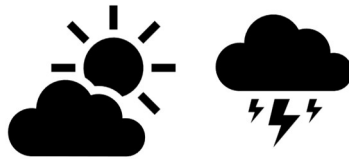
Equipment Safety

- Inspect tools and equipment before each use.
- Follow manufacturer guidelines for operation and maintenance.
- Keep guards and safety features intact and functional.
- Shut down equipment when not in use or during maintenance.



Weather

- Stay hydrated and take breaks in hot weather.
- Use cold-weather gear and warming stations in winter.
- Watch for slippery surfaces during rain or snow.



Conclusion

Sidewalk repair may be routine, but it demands attention to detail and a commitment to safety. Always follow procedures, wear your PPE, and communicate with your team. A safe job site protects everyone—from workers to pedestrians.