



# FALL PREVENTION ALLIANCE TOOLBOX TALK ON TOEBOARDS

Company: \_\_\_\_\_ Job Site Location: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_ Start Time: \_\_\_\_\_ Finish Time: \_\_\_\_\_ Foreman/Supervisor: \_\_\_\_\_

Toeboards are vertical barriers, at the floor level of the scaffolding which are erected along exposed edges of the scaffolding floor openings, wall openings, platforms, runways, or ramps. Toeboards prevent material from falling and employees from slipping off the scaffolding. A standard toeboard must be 4 inches minimum height from its top edge, to the level of the working surface, and securely fastened in place. Wherever tools, machine parts, or materials are to be used along exposed edges, a toeboard must be provided on each exposed side. Regardless of height, open-sided floors, platforms, ramps, or runways, above or adjacent to dangerous equipment, above or adjacent to personnel, and similar hazards must be guarded with a standard railing and toeboard.

**Scaffold Toeboards:** A scaffold platform is a work surface raised above lower levels. A walkway is a portion of a scaffold platform used only for access, and not as a work level. All scaffold platforms must be planked between the front uprights and the guardrail supports. Toeboards are to be in place below the guardrails.

- Each working platform must have a top guardrail, midrail, and a toeboard. Toeboards are required to be capable of withstanding, without failure, a force of at least 50 pounds applied in any downward, or horizontal direction at any point along the toeboard. Toeboards must be three and one-half inches minimum in length from their top edge to the level of the platform. Toeboards will be securely fastened in place at the outermost edge of the platform and have no more than one-half inch clearance above the platform floor. Toeboards must be solid, or with an opening not over one inch in the greatest dimension.
- Toeboards are designed to protect persons working below scaffolds where tools, materials, or equipment, could fall and strike others. The area below the scaffold must be barricaded, and a toe-board must be placed along the edge of the scaffold platform. Paneling or screening must protect persons below when tools, materials, or equipment are piled higher than the top edge of the toeboard. Alternatively, elaborate guardrail systems, canopies, or catch platforms may be installed to retain materials.

**Crane Footwalk Toeboard:** A standard toeboard must be 4 inches nominal in vertical height from its top edge to the level of the footwalk, runway, or ramp. It must be securely fastened in place, and with not more than 1/4-inch clearance above footwalk level.

- Every footwalk must be guarded by a standard railing with a standard toeboard on all open sides 4 feet or more above floor, or ground level. The railing must be provided with a toeboard beneath the open sides wherever persons pass, wherever there is moving machinery, or wherever there is equipment with which falling materials could create a hazard.

**Floor Opening Toeboards:** Ladderway, hatchway, chute, skylight, pit, trapdoor, manhole, and temporary floor.

- A standard toeboard must be 4 inches nominal in vertical height from its top edge to the level of the floor. It must be securely fastened in place and with not more than 1/4-inch clearance above floor level. It may be made of any substantial material either solid or with openings not over 1 inch. Note: Where material is piled to such a height that a standard toeboard does not provide protection, paneling from floor, to intermediate rail, or to top rail must be provided.
- Every ladderway floor opening must be guarded by a standard railing, with a standard toeboard, on all exposed sides except at the entrance to the stairway. Stairs with open risers must have a toeboard at least 4 inches high to prevent a foot from slipping between the stairs treads.
- Every hatchway and chute floor opening must be guarded by the following: A removable railing with a toeboard on not more than two sides of the opening, and fixed standard railings with toeboards on all other exposed sides. The removable railings are required to be kept in place when the opening is not in use.
- Every floor hole into which persons can accidentally walk is required to be guarded by a standard railing with standard toeboards on all exposed sides. When a floor hole cover is not in place, the floor hole must be constantly attended by someone, or be protected by a removable standard railing with standard toeboards.

**Conclusion:** Teach all employees how to analyze their worksite for safety and identify where toeboards must be installed. Toeboards are an essential part to safety on the job site.

Through the OSHA and Houston Fall Prevention Alliance, this Toolbox Talk was developed for informational purposes only. It does not necessarily reflect the official views of OSHA or the U.S. Department of Labor. July 2016.

The Houston Fall Prevention Alliance was formed by the below organizations to provide their members, and others, with information, guidance and access to training resources that will help them protect the health and safety of workers, particularly by reducing and preventing exposure to fall hazards in the construction industries and addressing fall related issues and understand the rights of workers and the responsibilities of employers under the Occupational Safety and Health Act (OSH Act). In developing this alliance, these organizations recognize that OSHA's State Plan and On-site Consultation Project partners are an integral part of the OSHA national effort.





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