



Tailgate Safety Training for Landscaping and Horticultural Services

Agricultural Safety Program, 590 Woody Hayes Drive, Columbus, OH 43210

Task Lighting

Objective: Use appropriate lighting for the type of work, the workplace, and workers' visual capabilities.

How to Use This Module

Good lighting makes work easier and safer. Poor lighting can make it difficult and dangerous. For this module:

- Read the information on hazards caused by poor task lighting and safe task lighting practices.
- Discuss task lighting in your own work place with your supervisor and other workers. Identify hazards and possible remedies.
- Review the important points.
- Take the True/False quiz to check your learning.

Background

General lighting provides light for an entire building or facility. Task lighting, on the other hand, is the lighting available at the work area where a task is performed. Proper task lighting makes work safer and easier. Workers receive about 85 percent of their information through their eyes. Appropriate lighting highlights moving machinery and other safety hazards. That helps prevent accidents from unseen hazards. Good lighting also reduces vision problems and injuries from momentary blindness.

Task Lighting Hazards

Inappropriate lighting, such as using only overhead lights, can create shadows. Shadows can make work difficult and dangerous, hiding sharp edges and other potential hazards. Poor lighting can cause:

- Injuries from unseen hazards.
- Eyestrain.
- Eye irritation.
- Blurred vision.
- Dry burning eyes.
- Headaches.

Task Lighting Safety Practices

- Provide lighting with adjustable intensity to meet the needs of workers with visual limitations.
- Use light colors on walls, ceilings, and floors to reflect light. Keep these surfaces clean.
- Keep workplaces well lighted.
- Replace and clean lights regularly.
- To prevent shadows, light the work area, ceilings, and walls independently.
- Use task lighting when general and local lighting are not sufficient.
- Allow workers enough time for their eyes to adapt from a well-lighted to a low-lighted area and vice versa.
- Use filters to diffuse overhead lighting.
- Diffuse overhead lights.

Review These Important Points

- Workers receive about 85 percent of their information through their eyes.
- Shadows can make work difficult and dangerous, hiding sharp edges and other potential hazards.
- Poor lighting can cause eyestrain, eye irritation, blurred vision, dry burning eyes, and headaches.

About These Modules

The author team for the training modules in the landscape and horticultural tailgate training series includes Dee Jepsen, Program Director, Agricultural Safety and Health, Ohio State University Extension; Michael Wonacott, Research Specialist, Vocational Education; Peter Ling, Greenhouse Specialist; and Thomas Bean, Agricultural Safety Specialist. Modules were developed with funding from the Occupational Safety and Health Administration, U.S. Department of Labor, Grant Number 46E3-HT09.

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Answer Key: 1 = T, 2 = F, 3 = F, 4 = T, 5 = T.

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Task Lighting

Name _____

True or False?

1. Use light colors on walls, ceilings, and floors to reflect light. Keep these surfaces clean. T F
2. Keep work places well lighted and replace and clean lights irregularly. T F
3. To prevent shadows, light the task, ceilings, and walls dependently. T F
4. Use task lighting when general and local lighting are not sufficient. T F
5. Allow enough time for your eyes to adapt from a well-lighted to a low-lighted area and vice versa. T F