

Material storage

Reason	Unsafe stacking can lead to collapse and life-changing injuries.
Outline	This talk covers general points on stacking bricks, kerbstones, timber, pipes and prefabricated panels.



Always stack materials safely. This photo shows the results of bad practice



Stack safe - stay safe.

If you notice materials that have been poorly stacked - report it.

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Stacking

1. When handling materials, wear work gloves and safety boots.
2. Only stack or store materials in authorised areas; never near doorways, walkways or on fire escape routes.
3. Where possible, stack on level, firm surfaces and place on pallets or timbers.
4. Never make stacks higher than three times the minimum base width.
5. Where possible, stack materials close to the working area to reduce the amount of handling.
6. Keep your hands clear of the load if materials are being moved by machinery. Use tag lines if loads need to be controlled.

Bricks, blocks and palleted material

1. Ensure the base of the stack is level. Only stack two packs high.
2. Ensure the upper pack is loaded squarely onto the lower one.
3. If banding is damaged or materials are displaced in the pack, do not stack other materials on top.

Timber

1. Racks are the best method of storing smaller timbers.
2. Joists, trusses and larger timbers should be placed on bearers.
3. Do not stack vertically, leaning against other structures.

Large prefabricated panels

1. Stack flat or store secured in designed racks (stillages) and ensure items are secured with banding. Sheets of glass need to be stored individually.
2. Don't lean against parts of semi-constructed buildings or temporary structures.
3. Don't store upright in an area where panels could be affected by wind.
4. Secure if stored at height or in other exposed areas, especially lighter materials (such as insulation).

Pipes and tubes

1. Where pipes are small in diameter stack in racks. If large in diameter securely chock at the base.
2. Don't stack in pyramids as they can become unstable, unless the pipes are banded.
3. Large concrete rings must be laid flat so they cannot be moved or rolled by any person, especially children.



What sort of surface should materials be stacked on?

How high should packs of palleted blocks be stacked?

What must you not do if a pack of blocks has damaged banding?

How should large timbers be stacked?

How can you prevent large pipes from rolling?