

EQUIPMENT SAFETY TIPS FOR INCIDENT PREVENTION

BLIND SPOTS: Heavy equipment operators have to be 100 percent sure that no one is behind them or in their blind spots when moving, even if this involves getting out of the machine and checking. If vision is limited, have a spotter stand in a safe, visible position to guide and direct you.

COMMUNICATION: Always be in constant communication with the people working around you. A two-way radio is the best form of communication; if that option is not available then use hand signals from a spotter.

SEATBELTS: Wearing your seatbelt in heavy equipment is important. There is no excuse but laziness for not wearing it at all times.

MOUNTING AND DISMOUNTING: Falls and stepping on and off are some of the biggest causes of injury recorded by OSHA and other safety departments. This includes entering and exiting the cab of a machine. A good rule of thumb is to always maintain three points of contact when getting on or off of your equipment. Never jump.

LOADING/UNLOADING EQUIPMENT: Always be sure to be on level ground when loading or unloading equipment. It greatly reduces the risk of rollovers or sliding off the low-bed ramps. Make sure people are clear of the unloading area.

OVERHEAD AND UNDERGROUND HAZARDS: Before work starts on any job site, all overhead obstructions such as power lines and low clearance should be identified and flagged. Be sure underground utilities are marked with color-coded paint and flags. When leaving holes that workers or the public can fall into, be sure to set up barriers and snow fencing.

LOCK-OUT/TAG-OUT: Employers must train and have procedures in place to ensure that before any employee performs servicing or maintenance on a machine where unexpected start-up or release of stored energy could occur and cause injury, the machine or energy source must be rendered inoperative. This includes hazards such as pinch points, attachments, and raised loads.

LOAD LIMITS: Be aware of the load limits of varying equipment when operating different machines throughout the day. Depending on the equipment set-up and size the load limits can change drastically. Make sure loads are secure with the proper rigging attachments, and always inspect to ensure they are in good working condition. Confirm all workers are at a safe distance when lifting and moving loads.

WALK-AROUND INSPECTION: Equipment should be inspected at least once daily before operating. This involves walking around with a predeveloped checklist of components to check for good working order. Hydraulic hoses, undercarriage, oil levels, stress points, etc., are all areas that need to be inspected and reported before machine start-up.

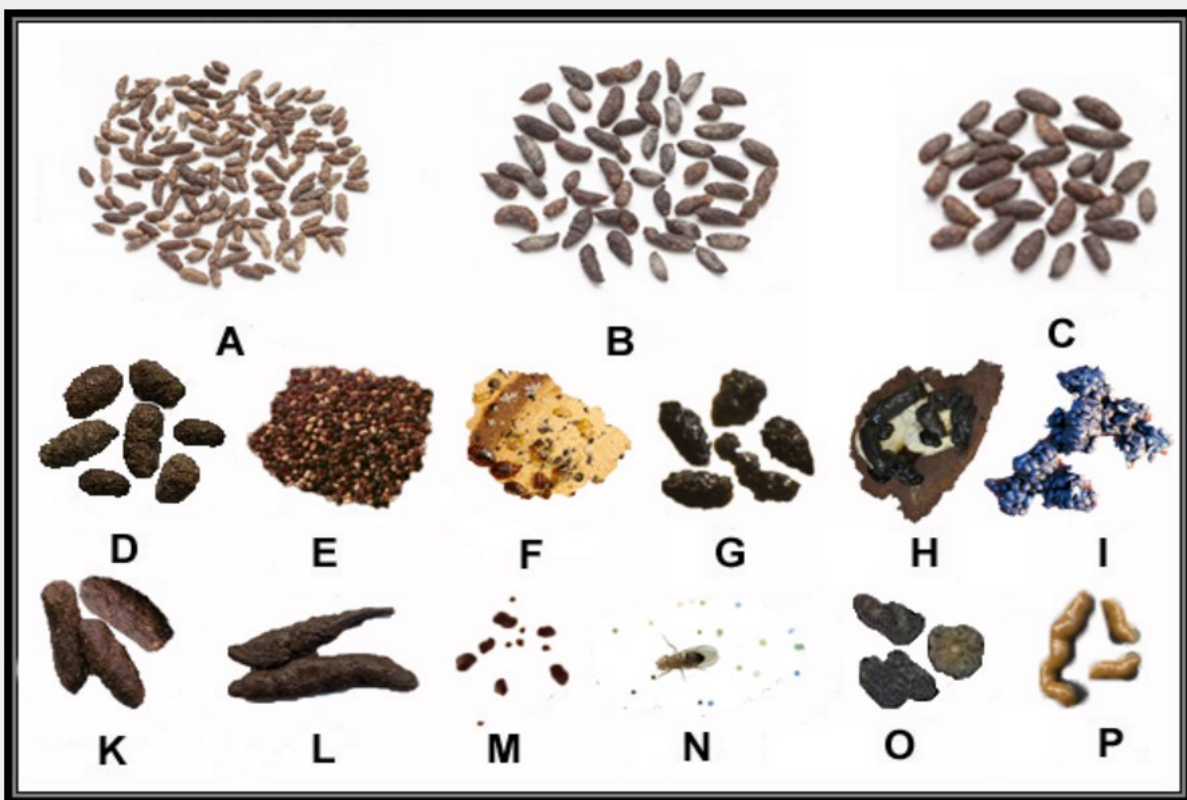
KNOWING YOUR LIMITS: Operating heavy equipment can be a stressful job at times even for a seasoned veteran. Never put yourself in a situation you don't feel comfortable in, regardless of your instructions. Staying calm and alert throughout the day will allow you to be more productive and will translate to a positive working environment for those around you.

This list is only a general guideline of things to keep in mind. Accidents can happen, but most are preventable incidents. Having regular safety meetings, up-to-date procedures, and training will keep incidents down and workdays more efficient.

Source: <https://www.constructionequipment.com/10-equipment-safety-tips-incident-prevention>



How To Tell The Difference Between Different Types of Pest Droppings/Poop



A. HOUSE MOUSE OR FIELD MOUSE DROPPINGS/POOP: Skinny pellets, usually about 1/16 inch in diameter and 3/16 inch long, with pointed tips and maybe slightly bulging out in the center. There is usually some size variance, but they are basically like very small brown grains of cooking rice. Fresh ones are dark brown, but they will get lighter with age. Mouse poop droppings are the most common types of droppings that you will encounter in your home.

B. ROOF RAT DROPPINGS/POOP: Roof Rat droppings are very similar to the house mouse but much thicker. Typically the length will still be the same but the thickness will be much greater than the typical field mouse.

C. NORWAY RAT DROPPINGS/POOP: Norway Rat poop/droppings are even thicker than the roof rats and typically much shorter than field mice and roof rats.

D. COCKROACH DROPPINGS/POOP: The feces of small to medium cockroaches are black and resemble black pepper or ground coffee. Larger cockroaches leave brown or black droppings which are cylindrical in shape and have ridges down the sides of them.

E. TERMITE DROPPINGS/POOP: Mysterious piles of multi-colored pellets are usually indicative of drywood termite presence. Termite dropping piles could be drywood termite poop known as frass. Drywood frass can sometimes be different colors, depending of the color of the termites have been eating, but all drywood droppings are mostly six-sided.

F. BED BUG DROPPINGS/POOP: Bed bug fecal matter is usually dark in color and made up of digested blood from their host. Bed bug feces are smooth to the touch unlike roach feces, which is much more granular in feel. The fecal matter is easy to spread and can quickly stain mattresses, drapes, sheets, furniture, sofas and chairs.

G. BAT DROPPINGS/POOP: Bat Poop looks like big dark brown grains of rice, bigger than that of a mouse. They are fairly uniform in size. A lot of times the ends are a bit pointy or a bit irregular, but for the most part, it's consistent in shape and the ends are rounded. They are sometimes clumped together a bit, due to the amount urine combined with them.

H. SNAKE DROPPINGS/POOP: The feces of carnivores tend to be somewhat mushy, because there's not

a lot of plant fiber in them. This is also the case with some snakes. Snake feces are usually pretty smooth and mushy. Some snake poo will contain fur, since they eat mammals, but the consistency is generally a bit mushy with smooth edges.

I. RACCOON DROPPINGS/POOP: Raccoon droppings usually are to be 2-3 inches long and 1/2-inch wide (kind of like a dog's) and are often filled with remains of what they have been eating lately. For example, if they are eating corn, you will often find corn remains in the droppings. The same occurs when they are eating fruit and other foods etc.

K. POSSUM DROPPINGS/POOP: Possum poop is medium to Large Size, like dog poo. Averages 3/4 inch in diameter or larger. The ends are usually tapered and the sides are usually smooth. It tends to be more curly than straight. Sometimes mold will grow on the feces.

L. SKUNK DROPPINGS/POOP: Skunk droppings might look like those of domestic cats and will contain all types of food, from insect skeletons, to hair or seeds. Striped skunk droppings are 1/2 inch in diameter, usually 2 to 4 inches long, and will have blunt ends. Spotted

skunk droppings are going to be similar looking, but maybe half the size.

M. SPIDER DROPPINGS/POOP: Spider droppings look like pin head-size drips or splats in shades of white, brown, gray or black. You'll usually find the droppings on surfaces below where you find spiders.

O. SQUIRREL DROPPINGS/POOP: Squirrel Droppings look like oblong pellets, usually about 1/8 inch in diameter and 3/8 inch long, rounded tips and might be slightly bulging in the center. with a little size variance. Fresh ones are going to be dark brown, but they get lighter with age. Looks very similar to rat droppings, only a little bit fatter, and a more likely to grow lighter with time.

P. BEE/WASP DROPPINGS/POOP: Bee/Wasp poop is a yellow liquid substance that looks like squeezed mustard and dragged along in long lines.

Source: <http://www.abeepestpro.com/differences-types-of-pest-droppings-poop.htm>