



Demolition work involves many of the same hazards that arise during other construction activities. However, demolition also involves additional hazards, including lead-based paint, sharp or protruding objects, and asbestos-containing material.

### Safe Work Practices

- Brace or shore up the walls and floors of structures that have been damaged if employees must enter.
- Inspect personal protective equipment (PPE) before use.
- Select, wear and use appropriate PPE for the task.
- Inspect all stairs, passageways and ladders; illuminate all stairways.
- Shut off or cap all electric, gas, water, steam, sewer and other service lines; notify appropriate utility companies.
- Guard wall openings to a height of 42 inches; cover and secure floor openings with material able to withstand the loads likely to be imposed.
- Floor openings used for material disposal must not be more than 25 percent of the total floor area.

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- Use enclosed chutes with gates on the discharge end to drop demolition material to the ground or into debris containers.
- Demolition of exterior walls and floors must begin at the top of the structure and proceed downward.
- Structural or load-supporting members on any floor must not be cut or removed until all stories above that floor have been removed.
- All roof cornices or other ornamental stonework must be removed before pulling walls down.
- Employees must not work where structural collapse hazards exist until hazards are corrected by shoring, bracing or other effective means.

*Adapted from OSHA Quick Card 3290-10N-05, U.S. Department of Labor.*



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Commissioner of Labor

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