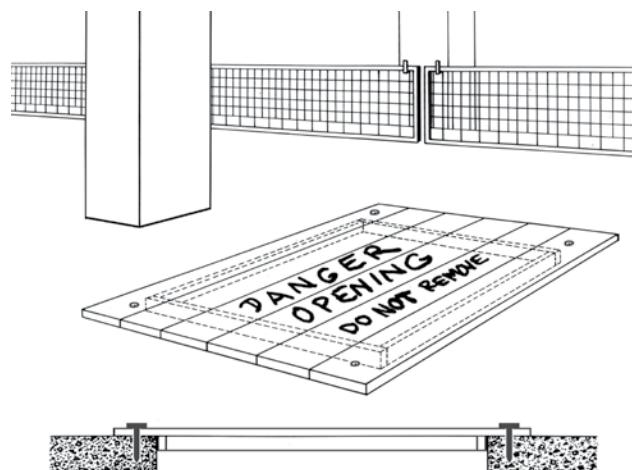


Floor and roof openings

List floor or roof opening hazards on site.



Pallet-Style Cover

Explain dangers

Without proper guarding, workers are exposed to falls when working around floor and roof openings. Avoiding such hazards may seem like common sense, but a moment of distraction around an uncovered opening can end in disaster.

- In March 2010, a worker was killed installing formwork for a concrete curb around an opening. The worker fell 32 feet through the floor.
- In May 2010, a worker was killed after falling about 17 feet through a roof opening.
- In June 2010, a worker was installing a drywall fire barrier in a back-split style duplex. The worker fell through an opening into the basement and died.

Identify controls

Installing guardrails is the best solution. In situations where guardrails can't be installed, covers are the next best option. According to the construction regulations, these covers must:

- completely cover the opening
- be securely fastened
- be labelled as a covering for an opening
- be made from material that can support any load that may be encountered on the worksite.

Always use another means of fall protection when installing, removing, or working near an unprotected opening.

The labels on opening covers need to stand out on a busy worksite. Use bright paint to create a warning sign on the cover that says something such as —DANGER! OPENING—DO NOT REMOVE! DO NOT LOAD!

Always fasten the cover securely to prevent workers from removing it and falling through the opening. Where permanent covers or hatches are installed, they should be kept closed at all times except when they are being used for access.

Demonstrate

After you talk about floor and roof openings, take a look around the jobsite. If there is an available roof or floor opening, install a cover and review how this complies with legislation.

If you can't install a floor or roof covering, then talk about what everyone has seen on jobsites in the past and what types of openings they've encountered.

Has anyone seen an incident involving an uncovered opening? How could it have been prevented?