

A shop vacuum (shop vac) is a useful tool for cleaning up debris and dust in a workshop, garage, or other work area. Shop vacuums can be hazardous when used in an unsafe manner or in a hazardous environment. Some potential shop vac hazards can include: electrical shock, projectile debris, suction injuries, and particulate exposure (respiratory and eye irritant). These procedures outline safe shop vacuum use.

- Read and review the user manual to familiarize yourself with the machine features and manufacturer's operation procedures and complete the required training.
- Put on required personal protective equipment (PPE) – ANSI Z.87+ rated safety glasses and disposable nitrile gloves.
  - Hearing protection (disposable ear plugs or reusable earmuff-style) is strongly recommended.
- Clear the area of storage, debris, cords/cables, and other potential slip, trip, and fall hazards.
- Keep the shop vacuum and its cord away from moisture, and do not use in standing water or on wet surfaces.
- Check the area for hazardous materials such as flammable liquids, gases, or solids.
  - Move any hazardous materials to their correct chemical storage location prior to using the vacuum.
  - The vacuum's electricity can ignite flammable/reactive material vapors.
  - Never use a shop vacuum or other electrical equipment in a potentially hazardous environment (e.g., flammable vapors are present from flammable gas cylinder, oil-k

