

Improving Workplace Safety Without Going Broke

Safety isn't always thought to be practical (either financially or business wise) for the small business owner. For some, there is a mindset that there is no way to get the job done safely without spending piles of money. Unfortunately, many small businesses learn the hard way that it only takes one injury, to put the business and it's owner in financial jeopardy.

There are ways to improve your workplace safety without going broke.

Hire smart

Rather than just finding an employee, make an investment and hire a professional. Be sure to carefully screen your candidates with regards to their skills and experience. Hire employees that will be successful for your business and most likely, they will be the ones that will work the safest.

Train your employees

Look for ways to make a certain job safer and be sure to share your experience with your employees. Relying on "common sense" is a recipe for disaster.

Demand safe work practices

Start each job with the mindset that there is always time to do things safely and it is never acceptable to work unsafely. Most importantly, practice what you preach! Employees will only buy into your message if they believe that you believe.

Provide the right equipment

You can't expect employees to follow safe work practices if they don't have the proper equipment to do so. Don't accept short-cuts or risk allowing the employee to use the wrong tool just to "get the job done."

Show you value safety

Stay away from encouraging workers to be creative and getting the job done "no matter what it takes" – this just devaluates your message. Instead, recognize those that go beyond and complete the task without jeopardizing their safety or that of the crew. Buy them the next cup of coffee as an incentive for demonstrating safe behaviors.

Look for ways to improve safety

Employees will know how to improve safety, take the time to ask them about their suggestions. They want to go home every night injury free to spend time with their family and friends.

There's more than one right answer

No job is without risk and 100% safe. Consider alternative ways to approach a job to make it safer. Safety is not always and absolute.