

UTILITY MECHANIC//SR. UTILITY MECHANIC

Ref. Code: L-UM-12

FIXING PLUMBING FIXTURES AND FITTINGS, CORRECTING HOT AND COLD CROSSOVERS, REPAIRING AND REPLACING PIPING		
Activity	Hazard Identification	Required Precautions
1. Driving to and from work site.	1. Motor vehicle accident; striking pedestrians, bicyclists, or individuals using rollerblades.	1. Wear prescription lenses, if required, and seatbelt. Verify that all equipment on vehicle is secured properly. Stay alert for pedestrians, bicyclists, and individuals using rollerblades.
2. Using stepladder.	2. Ladder collapsing; slipping/falling from ladder.	2. Inspect ladder before use. Use ladder of proper height. Make sure ladder is properly assembled and locked and standing on level ground. Do not exceed weight limit for ladder. Do not stand on top of ladder or on top rung. Have coworker hold ladder.
3. Using extension ladder.	3. Ladder falling; slipping/falling from ladder.	3. Inspect ladder before use. Verify that ladder is properly assembled and that it is securely positioned on level ground. Tie safety rope to ladder to secure it to building. Use 1'-4' rule. Use OSHA decal to verify that ladder is in the proper position.
4. Working in standing water from broken water line.	4. Slipping/falling.	4. Walk slowly and carefully to maintain footing.
5. Soldering.	5a. Burning self with torch.	5a. Wear safety goggles, gloves, coveralls, and leather chaps. Always burn away from yourself.
	5b. Starting a fire.	5b. Do not solder near flammable materials. Always keep fire extinguisher nearby and have a person stand by as firewatch.
	5c. Burns from hot solder dripping on self; flux burn.	5c. Do not reach to solder; stay level with area being soldered. Wear gloves, safety glasses, and coveralls.

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	5d. Inhalation of fumes.	5d. Work in well-ventilated area. Use exhaust fans and tubes for ventilation.
	5e. Using wrong solder can cause popping and splattering.	5e. Use correct solder for the job.
6. Working in tunnels or other confined spaces.	6a. Serious illness due to lack of oxygen or exposure to methane gas.	6a. Before working in confined area, verify that it is safe by monitoring air (get confined space permit as required). While working, always ventilate area using fan. In vertical tunnels, always use tripod and harness in case worker becomes ill and must be pulled up. Always have at least one person outside confined area to monitor safety of those working inside.
	6b. Dark work area.	6b. Replace burned out bulbs. Use flashlights or droplights, plugged into GFCI-protected outlets, as auxiliary lighting.
	6c. Working for long periods of time in cramped position can lead to backache or neck ache.	6c. Leave confined area frequently to stretch out.
7. Using power tools including hammer drill, saws, and pipe threader.	7a. Electric shock; electrocution.	7a. Keep power cord away from work area. Plug tools into GFCI-protected outlet. Do not use drill if work area is wet. Before drilling into a wall, survey area for power lines, water lines, air conditioning ducts and other safety hazards.
	7b. Tripping over or cutting power cord.	7b. Keep power cord away from work area.
	7c. Injury from flying bits of material, including metal chips; chips embedded in eye.	7c. Wear safety glasses, and optionally a dust mask, gloves, long-sleeve shirt and/or coveralls.
	7d. Burning self on hot blade.	7d. Do not touch blade after cutting. Wear gloves.
	7e. Saw or drill bit catching; drill bit breaking; severe lacerations; dismemberment.	7e. Keep tools in good condition. Inspect tools before use. Make sure you have a good center of gravity and are properly balanced. Hold tools securely with two hands to maintain control.

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	7f. Loss of hearing.	7f. Wear earplugs.
	7g. Getting caught in pipe threading machine.	7g. Do not wear loose clothing, jewelry, or keys. Stay alert while working with pipe threader.
8. Using hand tools.	8. Cuts, pinches, smashes, punctures, severing of fingers.	8. Keep tools in good condition. Inspect tools before use. Wear safety glasses. Work away from yourself. Use normal caution required for all hand tools.
9. Working with or near broken plumbing fixtures.	9. Cuts form sharp edges.	9. Wear gloves. Handle carefully.
10. Working near hot water and/or hot pipes.	10. Getting splashed and burned by hot water; getting burned by hot pipes.	10. Before beginning work, turn off water. If water remains in pipe, nick pipe with saw and let water run out until pressure drops.
11. Working near gas lines.	11. Explosion.	11. Make sure gas is turned off before beginning work.
12. Lifting heavy weight.	12. Back strain; overexertion.	12. Know your weight-lifting capacity and get help if needed. Lift with legs. Keep back straight. Use mechanical lifting equipment if necessary.
13. Working in area of pedestrian traffic.	13. Pedestrians knocking over ladder, opening door into worker, or stepping on worker; dropping tools on pedestrians; other injuries to pedestrians.	13. Secure area with cones and tape before working.
14. Working in area of motor vehicle traffic.	14. Vehicle striking ladder and/or worker.	14. Secure area with cones and tape before beginning work.