

# CUSTOMER FOCUS ON LOSS CONTROL

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NUMBER 7

## Construction Boots

There is the saying, "I complained because I had no shoes until I met a man who had no feet." Proper footwear for the job is essential to protect **your** feet. You only get one pair. The next pair you get will be artificial.

Some think work is the place to finish off their old shoes. Not so; injuries can occur because of paper-thin soles, spliced laces, or improper footwear such as sneakers or sandals.

Here are some general guidelines to help you keep your feet safe while at work:

- Discard shoes that have run-down heels or flapping soles.
- Worn soles will not protect your feet.
- Replace worn laces.
- Wet concrete is mildly caustic; wear overshoes.
- Trench foot is caused by wet boots.
- Asphalt and hot roofing require heavy boots.
- Steel shanks will help prevent punctures caused by nails or other sharp objects.
- Steel toed boots protect your feet from being crushed.



When special protection is required in a particular work area, protect your feet by using the appropriate type of work shoe. Special types of work require special types of boots.

- When working on hot asphalt, wear shoes that have extra thick soles, or use wooden sandals attached to your boots.
- Welders should wear leggings over their boots to protect their feet from hot metal.
- Work in extremely cold environments may require shoes that have rubber soles, with leather uppers and liners. (Although these may not be safety boots, they will protect from frostbite.)

The American National Standards Institute provides impact and compressive test guidelines for protective footwear. ANSI also provides standards for four special types of boots (refer to ANSI Z41). They are: metatarsal (steel toe), conductive, sole puncture and static dissipative. Each boot has a special application, but each must also meet the impact and compressive test guidelines. If you are unsure of the best boot for your work, ask your foreman or superintendent.

*Remember--you only get one pair of feet! Protect them!*

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