

# **TOOLBOX TALK**

#### 42. PATH WORK

#### What?

- To achieve a good standard of inclusive design, paths should be designed to be accessible to people with limited mobility, including wheelchair users, and to those with sensory impairments.
- Outdoor path surfaces should be firm, level, non-glare and non-slip when wet or dry. Loose materials, such as gravel, cobbles and woodchip should be avoided.
- Crushed stone is typically used for accessible paths as it provides good traction and is easy to walk on when wet. Also, it does not sink into subsoil, or shift into grass borders, so the path surface should stay intact for many seasons.

#### Why?

- Access to the countryside is a right, not a privilege, so the more paths that are accessible to people with disabilities, the better.
- Designing a path for the widest range of people creates better designs and benefits everyone. It eliminates costly retro-fits and creates happy users.
- Path work can involve the use of a variety of tools and machinery and the nature of the work involves transporting heavy loads i.e. stone, so there are a number of possible hazards to be mindful of.



### Do 🗸

- Check the site for dangers before starting work
- Secure tools and materials in the minibus
- Cordon off the proposed area and put up signage to warn the public of the work going on
- Read the power tools & machinery risk assessment
- Wear gloves with a good grip
- ✓ Use appropriate lifting & handling techniques for transporting heavy wheelbarrows and shovelling stone
- Swap tasks around to ease strain on individuals
- Keep a tidy workspace to prevent trips
- Use ear defenders if using, or working close to the compaction plate

## Don't X

- Don't let anyone move heavy stone if they are not able to do so or they may cause a serious back injury
- Don't forget to take a break, moving stone is heavy work
- Don't operate the compaction plate on a steep slope
- Don't operate machinery if tired or feeling unwell or in poorly lit conditions



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