Fleet Maintenance Tips

Mechanics keep trucks on the road and drivers safe. We depend on them to keep the public safe, too. Good mechanics are vital to the success of the trucking industry and to your company. Simple procedures can keep them safe at work and on the job.

**Employers**
Be sure employees are properly trained in maintenance procedures.

**Employees**
Ask for help if you’re not sure how to complete a task.

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**For more information**

- Safe workplace: [WAC 296-800-110](https://app.leg.wa.gov/codiregulation/codeDetail.wss?c=49&b=xr&s=296-800-110)
- Forklifts: [WAC 296-863-300](https://app.leg.wa.gov/codiregulation/codeDetail.wss?c=49&b=xr&s=296-863-300)

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**TIPS TO LIVE BY**

**Safety precautions when maintaining vehicles**

- Use lock out/tag out procedures to be sure truck cannot be started while mechanic is working.
- Apply brakes.
- Chock wheels. Use a prop or support for raised parts (dump beds, hoods).
- Use tire cage for inflating tires (required for split rims). Remove tires from rims before welding or cutting them.
- Protect against sparks or flames when working with greases, oils and fuels.
- Charge batteries in a well ventilated, dedicated area.
- Provide proper gloves, eye protection and eye wash station where battery charging is done.
- Assure proper training and handling of brake pads/shoes and clutch discs which can contain asbestos.

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Some companies use steering wheel covers as part of their lock out/tag out procedures.