



Floor Layer Exposure to Ergonomic Hazards

Exploring physical exposures and identifying high-risk work tasks within the floor layer trade

Jamie McGaha, Kim Miller, Alexis Descatha, Laurie Welch, Bryan Buchholz, Bradley Evanoff, and Ann Marie Dale. Applied Ergonomics, July 2014.

Overview

Floor layers have high rates of musculoskeletal disorders. Researchers analyzed 45 videos of 32 floor layers using task analysis software to determine time in task, postures, and repetitive hand movements during installation of four common flooring materials (hardwood, carpet, ceramic tile, and linoleum) to assess exposure to ergonomic hazards.

Key Findings

- Most workers (91%) met the caution threshold for one or more exposures.
- Prolonged exposures were seen for kneeling, poor neck and low back postures, and intermittent but frequent hand grip forces.
- Floor layers experience prolonged awkward postures and high force physical exposures in multiple body parts, which probably contribute to their high rates of musculoskeletal disorders.

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See abstract:

<http://bit.ly/1QCrpIi>

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