

ILLUSIONS AUSTRALIA

SAFE WORK PROCEDURE

SWP 008 – BLOWER

1. PURPOSE AND SCOPE

Minimum requirements for safe use of electric or battery-powered blowers at Illusions Australia.

Applies to approved cleaning and material-moving tasks; blowers are not a substitute for appropriate dust extraction or vacuum cleaning.

2. AUTHORISATION AND COMPETENCY

Operators must understand the blower controls, discharge hazards and limitations.

Workers must select a safer cleaning method where blowing would create hazardous airborne dust.

3. REQUIRED PPE

The following PPE must be worn as appropriate:

- Eye protection.
- Hearing protection where required.
- Safety footwear.
- Respiratory protection where dust may become airborne.

4. PRE-START CHECKS

Before commencing work, confirm that:

- Blower, battery/lead, nozzle and controls are serviceable.
- Area is clear of people who may be struck by debris.
- Material to be moved is suitable for blowing and does not include hazardous dust.
- Discharge will not contaminate adjacent work areas, exits or equipment.
- Floor conditions remain safe.

5. SAFE OPERATING PROCEDURE

1. Assess whether vacuuming or another method is safer.
2. Warn or exclude other persons from the discharge area.
3. Hold the blower securely and point the nozzle away from people.
4. Start at low output where adjustable.
5. Direct debris toward a controlled collection point.
6. Maintain stable footing and awareness of airborne material.
7. Stop before moving into congested areas.
8. Collect and dispose of debris after blowing.

6. PROHIBITED PRACTICES

Workers must not:

- Direct airflow at any person.
- Blow dust from skin or clothing.
- Use on silica-containing, asbestos-containing, toxic or otherwise hazardous dust without a specific assessed method.
- Blow debris into walkways, electrical equipment, drains or occupied areas.
- Use where visibility will be impaired by dust.
- Leave loose debris uncollected.

7. DUST AND AIRBORNE CONTAMINATION

Blowing can convert settled material into respirable airborne dust.

- Prefer vacuum/extraction for fine dust.
- Do not use blowers for MDF/timber dust where this creates uncontrolled airborne exposure.
- Stop if a visible dust cloud develops.

8. PROJECTILES

Airflow can propel chips, grit and small offcuts.

- Clear larger objects before use.
- Maintain separation from others.
- Wear eye protection.

9. FAULTS, DAMAGE AND ABNORMAL OPERATION

Stop for damaged nozzle, abnormal noise/vibration, electrical fault, overheating or loss of control.

Remove defective equipment from service.

10. SHUTDOWN AND HOUSEKEEPING

- Switch off and allow moving parts to stop.
- Remove battery/isolate where cleaning is required.
- Collect displaced debris.
- Store the blower securely.
- Report defects.

11. EMERGENCY AND INCIDENT RESPONSE

1. Stop the equipment or activity immediately.
2. Isolate energy sources where safe to do so.
3. Provide or obtain first aid as required.
4. Notify the Foreman, Leading Hand or other authorised Illusions Australia representative.
5. Call emergency services where required.
6. Do not recommence until the incident, defect or unsafe condition has been addressed.

12. STOP WORK REQUIREMENT

Work must stop where:

- Dust or debris cannot be contained.
- Other persons cannot be kept clear.
- The material may be hazardous.
- Visibility becomes impaired.
- Equipment is damaged or behaves abnormally.

No production requirement or deadline takes priority over safe work.

DOCUMENT CONTROL

Document	SWP 008 – Blower
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