

The following article, which appeared in the December 1948 issue of Bechtel Briefs, sums up the importance of good housekeeping and can serve as a reminder of the importance of this aspect of our daily work.

A BECHTEL POLICY

Good Housekeeping



ALTHOUGH MANY PEOPLE look upon industrial housekeeping merely as a matter of keeping plants, offices and construction jobsites neat and reasonably clean, the important fact is that such housekeeping actually reflects orderliness in an organization's affairs from top to bottom.

It is my conviction that good housekeeping is as much a product of orderly thinking as it is of broom and dust pan. Orderly planning by management, attended by orderly performance of duties by employees, produces the smooth-working efficiency and the physical neatness that are the hallmarks of good teamwork.

There is an old saying—"Accidents don't just happen." Orderliness and safety are boon companions. Mishaps steer clear of workers with neat habits, find it easier to seek out careless employees in unkempt surroundings. Debris and loose tools invite the ambulance.

In my travels I have visited hundreds of industrial operations of every nature. It has been my observation that the visible evidences of housekeeping, good or bad, are almost infallible guideposts to the success of the operation. Those with an untidy, disorderly appearance have proved to be inefficient and wasteful of time, material and effort. Those with a well-kept look have been the secure, profitable operations producing goods or construction service of high quality with economy.

I am pleased at the evidences of good housekeeping throughout our operations. It is a credit to management and employees alike, and it carries out a reputation of ours which has been built up over the past half century. Good industrial housekeeping is a Bechtel policy—and a SAFE policy as well.

J. D. Bechtel

