

Working Above Ceiling

In hospital and healthcare facilities, patients are at a risk of falling victim to infection caused by dust that is stirred up during construction processes. To prevent the spread of dust we need to achieve a contained area that is under negative air. When working outside of the construction space, mobile containment cubes help us achieve this when used properly.

Working Above Ceiling Questions and Concerns

1. What is a mobile containment cube?
2. Where can I find a mobile containment cube?
3. What is the order of operations?
4. Frequently Asked Questions

1. What is a mobile containment cube?

A mobile containment cube is a containment device that has four "walls" with gasketing material on top that can be raised to ceiling height to provide a sealed workspace. Inside the cube, you can find a HEPA filter, a fire extinguisher, a ladder and a working platform.

2. Where can I find a mobile containment cube?

Lendlease will provide a mobile containment cube for your use when work is to be done above ceiling outside of the construction workspace. When a mobile containment cube is needed, ask your Lendlease superintendent at least ONE DAY in advance so that they can schedule the work. A laborer will be assigned to the mobile tent to move it, raise/lower the "walls", plug in the HEPA filter and open/close the ceiling for you.

3. What is the order of operations?

1. **Confirm an above ceiling permit or ILSM has been obtained from NYPH
2. Move cube to underneath portion of ceiling that is to be opened
3. Lock the wheels
4. Raise the "walls" tight to the ceiling to achieve a sealed enclosure
5. *Turn on HEPA filter (make sure the cord is taped down to avoid tripping hazard)
6. Open the ceiling
7. Perform task while wearing the approved above ceiling workman's vest
8. Close the ceiling
9. *Turn off the HEPA filter
10. Lower the "walls"
11. Unlock the wheels and move to next location

* If you are only surveying above ceiling the HEPA filter does not need to be running.

* *Above ceiling NON-PENETRATION permits can be obtained a day prior to the commencement of work. However, the process for obtaining an above ceiling PENETRATION permit is more in depth and can take up to two weeks to obtain. Pictures of the wall prior to the penetration being made must be taken along with a picture of the completed work showing the proper firestopping assembly with a label stating which UL system was used. Also, workers must have a valid firestopping certification.

4. Frequently Asked Questions

1. There is an obstruction blocking us from raising the "walls" tight to the ceiling. What should we do?
Sometimes you'll find that the "walls" of the containment cube cannot be raised tight to the ceiling because of an obstruction such as an exit sign, smoke detector, a soffit, etc. In these cases, plastic may be used to complete the sealed work area.

2. The mobile containment cube will not fit inside the work area. How are we to work above ceiling?

If the mobile containment cube cannot fit into the work area, other procedures will be implemented. One example includes building a containment area out of plastic.

3. I have to open multiple ceiling tiles at the same time. What is the procedure for this?

Some common examples of this include pulling wire or installing pipe. Anytime the ceiling is open, there must be some sort of containment area underneath. If two ceiling tiles need to be opened at the same time, two containment cubes have to be used. That is why the scope of work is to be discussed with your Lendlease superintendent at least ONE DAY prior to the start of work.

Remember, your actions have a direct impact on the safety and the well-being of patients, visitors and the people around you.

