

# Safe Chute Operation

*Your Superchute is an Essential Jobsite Tool – So Take Care of It!  
Follow these guidelines for a safe workplace and trouble-free chute operation.*

## Safety at the Chute Discharge

Debris can exit the chute discharge at **high speed** and **without warning**.

- **DO NOT** stand under or look up the chute discharge.
- **DO NOT** put hands or feet under the chute discharge.
- **KEEP** a distance of at least 30 feet between workers and the chute discharge.

Debris falling through the chute can cause the chute discharge to shake violently which can injure or kill workers nearby.

- **DO NOT** stand near the chute discharge.
- **DO NOT** hold onto the chute discharge.

## Safely Loading the Chute

Follow these **important rules** to prevent accidents and to keep the chute in good working order.

- **DO NOT** drop more than 50 lb (23 kg) of debris into the chute at one time.
- **DO NOT** drop debris larger than 50% of chute diameter. Break large items into smaller pieces.
- **DO NOT** drop whole concrete cinder blocks, spikes, flammable materials, or toxic dust.
- **DO NOT** use motorized loaders. Motorized loaders dump too much debris, too quickly.
- **DO NOT** drop debris when there is no dumpster under the chute or when the dumpster is full.
- **DO NOT** drop debris when the chute is blocked.

## Electric Shock Hazard

Be aware that the steel cable assemblies supporting the chute can conduct electricity if they come into contact with power lines. This can lead to serious injury or death.

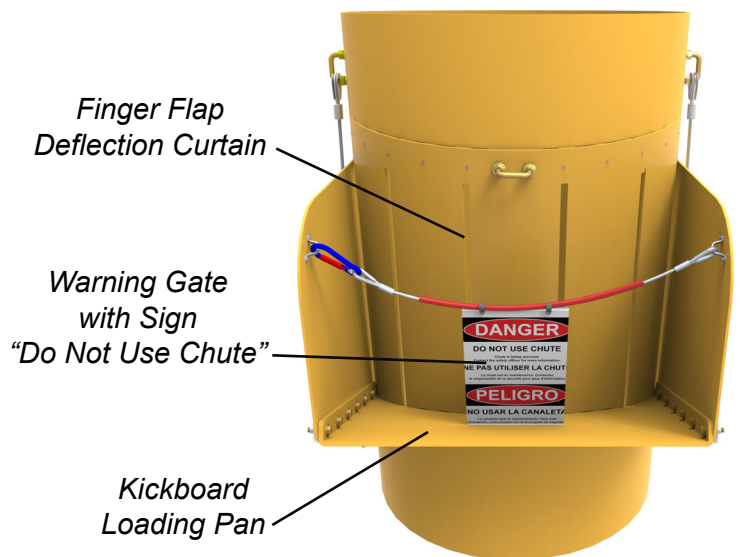
## Severe Weather Precautions

To prevent electrocution from a lightning strike, stay away from the chute during thunderstorms.

## Safety at the Chute Doors

Debris can fall past a chute door at **high speed** and **without warning**.

- **DO NOT** put your head, hands, or feet inside the chute door as debris may fall past at any time.
- **DO NOT** remove the finger flap deflection curtain. It prevents falling debris from damaging the kickboard and flying out of the chute.



## Using the Warning Gates

Use supplied warning gates to close the top hopper and chute doors when:

- The dumpster is full or is being changed.
- Chute maintenance is being carried out.
- The chute is blocked.

## Fire Warning

- Fires often start in the dumpster. A fire in the dumpster can spread smoke and fire into the building and cause the plastic chute to catch fire.
- Do not smoke, weld, or perform hot work near the chute or dumpster.
- Visit [superchute.com/fire](http://superchute.com/fire) for more information.

# Chute Blockage Hazard

***A chute blockage is the most frequent and dangerous situation that can occur when using a debris chute. It is crucial that everyone working with the chute be aware of blockage causes, dangers, and steps for safe resolution.***

## A Chute Blockage is Dangerous

A chute blockage can rapidly increase the weight of the chute as more and more debris accumulates inside the chute. This can overload the capacity of the chute support system (anchors, cable assemblies, hoist) and cause the chute to collapse.



***Serious injury and death can result if a chute collapses due to an overload caused by a blockage.***

***A chute can fall away from the building in the same way a tree falls when its trunk is cut, creating a wide path of destruction.***

## Preventing a Chute Blockage

1. Test for blockages at frequent intervals: Drop an identifiable object into the top hopper and verify that it exits the chute discharge.
2. Ensure that all debris dropped into the chute is exiting into the dumpster.
3. Ensure that the chute discharge is not obstructed by the accumulation of debris. Redirect the chute discharge as needed to keep the discharge clear.
4. Ensure the chute discharge is above the top of the dumpster.
5. Ensure the chute is hanging straight (vertically). Horizontal displacement of the chute must be less than 20% of its height. Reinstall the chute if it exceeds this limit.
6. Ensure the chute does not bend around protrusions along its entire length. Bends can crimp the chute and lead to a blockage. Reinstall the chute if it is crimped.

## If a Chute Blockage Occurs

1. **Immediately** stop adding debris to the chute.
2. **Take the chute out of service.** Close the Warning Gates on the top hopper and all door sections. Physically block access to all entry points.
3. **Do not attempt to clear or dislodge the blockage from above or below.** The added weight of debris stuck in the blocked chute can cause the chute to collapse without warning.
4. **Evacuate all persons** in the area below and around the chute. The path of destruction from a collapsing chute can be longer than its height.
5. **Call in a crane** with ample lifting capacity to lower the entire chute to the ground. Do not use the chute hoist or any other winching device to lower the chute. These devices will not have enough capacity to safely lower a blocked chute to the ground.
6. **Clear the chute blockage** on the ground.
7. **Consult a structural engineer** and the Superchute factory to determine if the chute anchors and cable assemblies were strained:
  - If the engineer concludes the cable assemblies were strained, order new cable assemblies from your supplier or the Superchute factory.
  - If the anchors were strained, install new anchors.
  - If the engineer concludes the anchors and cable assemblies were not strained, reinstall the chute.



**If you are unsure about a situation or need more info on chute operation call Superchute at 1-800-363-2488.**