



Toolbox Talk

Hand Tool Safety

Why does the use of hand tools require safety procedures?

- Each year, hand tools are responsible for about 7% to 8% of all injuries
- These injuries often involve severe disabilities

What injuries result from improper hand tool use?

- Loss of eyes/vision resulting from use of striking tools without eye protection
- Puncture wounds from using a screwdriver with a loose handle which causes the hand to slip
- Severed fingers, tendons and arteries caused by a dull knife that requires so much force that hands may slip down the blade
- Broken bones due to use of the wrong hammer for the job and smashing a finger
- Contusions resulting from using a small wrench for a big job; bruising a knuckle
- Infections produced by ignoring a cut in the skin made by a dirty chisel

4 basic rules of hand tool safety

- Select the right tool for the job
- Keep tools in good condition & don't use damaged tools
- Use tools properly
- Keep tools in a safe place

General safety procedures for use and handling of tools (demonstrate if possible)

- Metal-cutting tools (chisels, hacksaws, files, cutters, etc.): Never strike files against metal vises or other objects
- Wood-cutting tools (wood chisels, saws, hatchets, etc.): Never use axes or hatchets on metal, stone or concrete
- Miscellaneous cutting tools (planes, scrapers, bits, knives, etc.): Never carry a scraper around in your pocket
- Torsion tools (wrenches, tongs, screwdrivers, etc.): Never hold small work in your hand when using a screwdriver.
- Shock tools (hammers, etc.): Never use a hammer with a chipped face
- Keep tools in good working order with regular maintenance and repair
- Remove from service immediately if damaged
- Never carry tools while climbing (e.g., should be properly secured)
- Chisels, screwdrivers and pointed tools should never be stuck into pockets
- When handing tools to another worker, always offer the handle of the tool

