

Hand and Power Tool Safety

Electric drills, circular and hand saws, nail guns and other small power and hand tools are often underestimated for their ability to cause injuries. They may look harmless, but many injuries involve the use of hand and/or power tools, and these injuries can often be serious.

Safety Tips

- **Know your tools.** Select the correct type and size of tool for the job.
- **Inspect tools before use.** Check the cord, guards, housing, alignment, and general condition.
- **Carry tools properly,** never by the cord or hose. Retract or remove blades whenever possible
- **Do not attempt to catch falling tools.**
- **Do not remove, alter or bypass guards.**
- **Disconnect tools from power supply** when not in use, before servicing or changing blades, bits and cutters.
- **Never yank power cords** or hoses to disconnect.
- **Ensure tools are grounded** (3-wire plug is intact) before operating; use a GFCI outlet if available.
- **Do not use power tools near flammable vapors or materials.**
- **Avoid using electric tools in wet environments.**
- **Secure work with clamps or a vise** in order to free hands and grip tool.
- **Avoid using excessive force;** allow the tool to do the work.
- **Keep tools clean and sharp.**
- **Remove damaged tools from service**
- **Read owner's manual** and get training for unfamiliar tools.
- **Do not operate tools** if you are taking medications or are tired or distracted.
- **Do not wear loose clothing** or accessories that could get caught in rotating parts. Hair must be restrained.



Always Use PPE

- ✓ *Safety glasses or goggles* protect eyes from dust or projectiles.
- ✓ Face shields can protect from metal fragments when grinding or soldering.
- ✓ *Gloves* can protect hands from cuts and scrapes. Use the proper gloves for each tool and task. Do not wear gloves when using tools with rotating blades or bits.
- ✓ *Steel toe or heavy duty shoes* protect your feet from being injured by falling tools and materials.
- ✓ *Ear protection* may be necessary when noise exceeds safe levels.
- ✓ *Respiratory protection* may be required in specialized cases to protect against dust, fumes and vapors.