



HAND TOOLS SAFE WORK PRACTICES

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Hand tools is a generic term used to cover non-powered tools such as hammers, screwdrivers, wrenches, and pliers.

Do not use a hand tool without training or familiarity with that tool. All tools must be checked to ensure they are in proper working order and free of defects.

Hand tools safe work practices

Follow these safe work practices when using hand tools:

- Only use tools for the job they are intended to be used for
- **Do not** apply excessive pressure on tools
- **Do not** carry sharp tools in pockets
- Carry sharp tools in a heavy belt or apron
- Carry tools in a way that allows you to use both hands when climbing a ladder or climbing on a structure
- Wear appropriate personal protective equipment (PPE) (safety glasses, gloves, etc.)
- Inspect tools for defects prior to use. Replace cracked and broken handles on files, hammers, sledges, and screw-drivers. Re-dress burred or mushroomed heads of striking tools. **Do not** use a dull chisel. Do not use defective tools.
- Maintain tools carefully (keep them clean and dry and store them properly after use)
- Exercise extreme caution when using tools near live electrical circuits
- **Do not** use cushion grip handles as a replacement for insulated handles
- Pull on wrenches and pliers, **Do not** push on wrenches and pliers unless you are using an open hand
- Face an adjustable wrench forward and turn the wrench so the pressure is against the permanent jaw
- **Do not** increase leverage by adding sleeves to increase tool length
- **Do not** direct kinetic energy towards yourself or anyone else.
- **Do not** re-dress, grind, weld, or heat-treat hammer heads
- **Do not** use one hammer to strike another
- Re-dress heat-treated tools with a whetstone, not a grinder
- **Do not** use C-clamps to construct scaffolds or platforms for workers
- **Do not** hoist with C-clamps
- Use special lifting clamps to hoist



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