

Hand Tool Safety

Hazards

Hazards are usually caused by misuse and Improper maintenance

Do not use

- wrenches when jaws are sprung
- impact tools (chisels and wedges) when heads have mushroomed →
- tools with loose, cracked or splintered handles
- a screwdriver as a chisel
- tools with taped handles – they may be hidden cracks



Workers using hand tools may be exposed to these hazards:

- Debris and other objects that fall, fly, are abrasive or splash
- Harmful dusts, fumes, mists, vapors, and gases
- Vibration and impact
- Sharp cutting edges
- Shearing surfaces (scissors)
- Puncturing sharp point edges (drills, needles)

Injuries from working with hand and power tools

- Falling
- Hand and Eye injuries
- Hearing loss
- Crushing, cuts or losing a body part
- Ergonomic injuries

Basic Tool Safety Rules

- Maintain hand tools regularly
- Inspect the tools before each use
- Use the right tool for the job
- Operate the tools according to the manufacturers' instructions
- Use the appropriate Personal Protective Equipment (PPE)
- Use the provided with the tool guarding (if applicable)

- Keep the workplace floor surface free from debris to avoid tripping or slipping hazards
- Keep the cutting tools' edges sharp to ease their usage
 - Use tools for their intended purpose; do NOT improvise
 - Use Personal Protective Equipment (PPE), such as safety glasses and gloves
 - In general, PPE must be determined by a Risk Assessment per Job performed
 - Do NOT use self-made tools
 - Do NOT use worn or degraded tools

