



Safety with Power Tools

Power tool training, use and safety include many of the same factors you would associate with hand tools.

- Use only the proper tools for the job.
- Store them properly in a clean, dry location free from humidity.
- Keep them in good condition and inspect them regularly.
- Use vises and clamps to hold small objects.
- Provide adequate lighting, practice good housekeeping, and wear the proper personal protective equipment.

As with all tools, there are certain concerns governing electrical power tools. These are a few important “musts.” They are as follows:

- Read the owners manual prior to first time use.
- Avoid working with electrical power tools in damp or wet areas. If this cannot be avoided, always wear gloves and footwear designed for use when working with electricity.
- Tools should not be used unless you have been properly trained to do so.
- Examine the tool to insure that there are no damaged parts that require replacement. Inspect screws, nuts, bolts and moveable parts to insure that they are tightened properly.
- Power Switch should be checked to insure that it is “OFF” prior to plugging the tool in.
- PPE's - always wear Personal Protective Equipment (PPEs) as dictated by the assigned job. These can include face shields, disposable masks, safety goggles or gloves.
- Electrical tools must always protect the user from electrical shock or electrocution. This can be done by providing “double-insulated” tools, three-wired cords with the ground wire connected, and/or use of a ground fault circuit interrupter.
- Cords- never carry tools around by the cord; never disconnect them by “yanking” on the cord. Always disconnect power tools when they are not in use and before servicing them or charging accessories.
- Damaged electrical power tools must be removed from service immediately and tagged “Do not use.” Remember that the employer is ultimately responsible for seeing that defective tools are removed from the job site, replaced and/or repaired.
- Items such as rings, jewelry or loose clothing should not be worn when operating power tools.
- While working on scaffolds or ladders, rest the power tool in a bin that is secured to the ladder and/or rest it on a flat surface.

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