



For questions contact
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Hand Tool Safety

Hammers, wrenches, chisels, pliers, screwdrivers, and other hand tools are often underrated as sources of potential danger. Hand tools may look harmless, but they are the cause of many injuries.

Hand Tools are non-powered. They include anything from axes to wrenches. The greatest hazards posed by hand tools result from misuse and improper maintenance.



To avoid such injuries, remember the following safety procedures.

- Use the right tool for the job. Don't use your wrench as a hammer. Don't use a screwdriver as a chisel, etc.
- Don't use broken or damaged tools, dull cutting tools, or screwdrivers with worn tips.
- Cut in a direction away from your body.
- Make sure your grip and footing are secure when using large tools.
- Don't work with tools if hands are oily/greasy. This can lead to your hand slipping while using the tool.
- Carry tools securely in a tool belt or box. Don't hand carry tools up ladders. Use a hoist or rope. Keep close track of tools when working at heights.
- Always carry pointed tools by your side with the points and heavy ends down.
- Pass a tool to another person by the handle; never toss it to them.
- Use the right personal protective equipment (PPE) for the job.
- Never carry sharp or pointed tools such as a screwdriver in your pocket.
- Always keep your tools in top condition. A dull blade or blunt point can lead to injury.
- Store tools properly when you stop work.

- **Cuts, abrasions, amputations, and punctures.** If hand tools are designed to cut or move metal and wood, remember what a single slip can do to our skin.
- **Eye injuries.** Flying chips of wood or metal are a common hazard, often causing needless and permanent blindness.
- **Broken bones and bruises.** Tools can slip, fall from heights, or even be thrown by careless employees, causing severe injuries. A hammer that falls from a ladder can be a lethal weapon.

Mushroomed Hammer



Damaged Screwdriver



Cracked Handle

