

NBSIA Member Services Safety Bulletin

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POWER TOOL SAFETY TIPS

Power tools can help us perform tasks that would otherwise be difficult or impossible. However, these tools can cause severe injuries when misused or not properly maintained. Follow these tips to help you operate power tools safely and prevent injuries.

Start with a Safe Work Area

- Keep your work area clean and well lit. Cluttered benches and dark areas invite accidents.
- Do not operate power tools in explosive atmospheres, near flammable liquids, gases or dust. Power tools create sparks, which may ignite dust or fumes.
- Do not operate power tools with bystanders, children, or visitors present. Distractions can cause you to lose control.



Electricity can be Dangerous

- Grounded tools (three-pronged cords) must be plugged into grounded outlets.
- Store battery packs away from other metal objects like paper clips, coins, keys, nails, screws, etc. These things can make a connection from one terminal to another, shorting the battery terminals and causing burns or fires.
- When using a power tool, don't touch grounded surfaces such as pipes, radiators, ranges or refrigerators. There is a higher risk of electric shock if your body is grounded.
- In damp locations, only plug your tool into a Ground Fault Circuit Interrupter (GFCI). If the work area does not have a permanent GFCI outlet, use a plug-in GFCI. Wear rubber gloves and footwear.
- Do not abuse the cord, carry the tool by its cord, or pull the cord to unplug it. Keep the cord away from heat, oil, sharp edges or moving parts. Replace damaged cords immediately.

- When using a power tool outside, only use extension cords marked for outside use, they are labeled "W-A" or "W".

Practice Good Personal Safety

- DO NOT use tools that you have not been trained to use.
- Stay alert and watch what you are doing.
- Wear personal protective equipment such as masks, safety glasses, slip-resistant shoes, hard hats and/or hearing protection.
- Be sure power tools are switched to OFF before plugging in.
- ALWAYS keep hands away from rotating or moving parts.

Maintain Tools for Safety and Longevity

Tools that are not maintained properly become hazardous. Proper maintenance decreases malfunction and increases the longevity of your tools. Perform maintenance as required by the products manufacturer, and only by qualified repairmen.



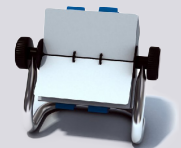
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Keep a copy of this bulletin in your Injury and Illness Prevention Program (IIPP) binder and be sure employees receive a copy.