

Power Tools

Hand and power tools are a common part of our everyday lives and are present in nearly every industry. These tools can be hazardous and have the potential to cause severe injuries when used or maintained improperly.

Five basic safety rules can help prevent hazards when using power tools:

1. Keep all tools in good condition with regular maintenance.
2. Use the right tool for the job.
3. Examine each tool for damage before use, and do not use damaged tools.
4. Operate tools according to the manufacturer's instructions.
5. Provide and use properly the right personal protective equipment (PPE).



General Requirements

- Never carry a tool by the cord or hose.
- Never yank the cord or the hose to disconnect it from the receptacle.
- Keep cords and hoses away from heat, oil, and sharp edges.
- Disconnect tools when not using them; before servicing and cleaning them; and when changing accessories such as blades, bits, and cutters.
- Keep all people not involved with the work at a safe distance from the work area.
- Secure work with clamps or a vise, freeing both hands to operate the tool.
- Avoid accidental starting. Do not hold fingers on the switch button while carrying a plugged-in tool.
- Maintain tools with care; keep them sharp and clean for best performance.
- Follow instructions in the user's manual for lubricating and changing accessories.
- Be sure to keep good footing and maintain good balance when operating power tools.
- Wear proper apparel for the task. Loose clothing, jewelry, etc. can become caught in moving parts.
- Remove all damaged portable electric tools from use and tag them: "Do Not Use."

References

- OSHA standard 1926 Subpart I
- OSHA Publication 3080

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