

POWERED HAND TOOLS SAFETY

HAND TOOLS ARE SUCH A COMMON PART OF OUR DAILY WORK THAT IT'S OFTEN DIFFICULT TO REMEMBER THEY COULD POSE HAZARDS. ALL HAND TOOLS ARE MANUFACTURED WITH SAFETY IN MIND BUT, TRAGICALLY, SERIOUS ACCIDENTS OFTEN OCCUR BEFORE STEPS ARE TAKEN TO AVOID OR ELIMINATE TOOL-RELATED RISKS.

WORKERS MUST LEARN TO RECOGNIZE HAZARDS ASSOCIATED WITH DIFFERENT TYPES OF TOOLS AND USE NECESSARY SAFETY PRECAUTIONS TO PREVENT INJURIES.

- WHEN SHOULD I INSPECT POWERED HAND TOOLS?
- WHAT SHOULD I LOOK FOR WHEN INSPECTING POWERED HAND TOOLS?
- WHAT SHOULD I DO IF I FIND A DEFECTIVE TOOL?
- WHAT PRECAUTIONS SHOULD I TAKE WHILE USING POWERED HAND TOOLS?
- WHAT SHOULD I AVOID WHEN USING POWERED TOOLS?



BC Forest Safety

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1) POWERED HAND TOOLS SHOULD BE INSPECTED FOR DAMAGE AND SAFETY FEATURES SHOULD BE WORKING PRIOR TO EACH USE.

2) CHECK FOR THESE THINGS WHEN INSPECTING YOUR POWERED HAND TOOLS:

- Check the handle and body casing for cracks or damage.
- If the tool has auxiliary or double handles, check to see they are secure.
- Inspect cords for defects such as cracking, fraying and other signs of wear or faults in the cord insulation.
- Check for damaged switches and faulty trigger locks.
- Inspect the plug for cracks and missing, loose or faulty prongs.

3) IF YOU FIND A DEFECTIVE TOOL:

- Remove the tool from service and clearly tag it "Out of Service for Repair".
- Replace damaged equipment immediately. Do not "temporarily" use defective tools.
- Do not attempt field repairs. Have tools repaired by a qualified person.

4) WHILE USING POWERED HAND TOOLS:

- Ensure you have been properly trained to use the tool safely. Read the operator's manual and operate the tool according to the manufacturer's instructions.
- Ensure the power tool has the correct guard, shield or other safety attachment recommended by the manufacturer.
- Check electric tools to ensure tools with three-prong plugs have an approved three-wire cord and are grounded. The three-prong plug should be plugged into a properly grounded three-pole outlet. **NEVER remove the third grounding prong from a plug.**
- Unplug or remove the battery from the tool to ensure it is locked out before changing accessories, making adjustments or storing it.
- Wear required personal protective equipment (PPE) or appropriate clothing for the work you are doing.
- Suspend power cords over aisles or work areas to eliminate stumbling or tripping hazards.

5) THINGS TO AVOID WHEN USING POWERED TOOLS:

- Pull the plug, not the cord, when unplugging a tool. Pulling the cord causes wear and may adversely affect the wiring to the plug and cause electrical shock to the operator.
- Ensure cutting tools, drill bits, etc. are kept sharp, clean and well maintained.
- Do not wear gloves, loose clothing or jewelry while using revolving power tools. Tie back long hair or wear appropriate hair protection to prevent it from getting caught in moving parts of equipment.
- Avoid accidental starting by ensuring the tool is turned off before it is plugged in.
- Do not leave a running tool unattended. Do not leave it until it has been turned off, has stopped running completely and has been unplugged.
- Do not surprise or touch anyone operating a tool. Startling a tool operator could cause an accident or injury.

QR Code: https://www.ccohs.ca/oshanswers/safety_haz/power_tools/saf_elec.html

