

UTILITY KNIFE SAFETY

A utility knife is a useful but hazardous tool often used for tasks like opening packaging or trimming materials. Its sharp, retractable blade can cause serious injuries if not handled properly.

Nearly one-third of injuries from manual tools involve retractable blade knives, ranging from minor cuts to severe wounds that may require surgery.

These accidents often happen due to distractions or a lack of safety awareness. Proper training and staying focused are key to preventing injuries and maintaining a safe workplace.

HOW TO REDUCE CUTTING INCIDENTS:

- KNOW WHY ACCIDENTS OCCUR
- KNOW THE SAFETY PRECAUTIONS



BC Forest Safety

Safety is **good** business

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UTILITY KNIFE ACCIDENTS OFTEN HAPPEN FOR THE FOLLOWING REASONS:

- Pulling the knife toward your body instead of cutting away
- Using a dull blade, which requires more force and increases injury risk
- Trying to cut materials that are too thick or tough for the knife to handle
- Storing the knife with the blade still extended
- Not wearing proper protective gear
- Failing to inspect the knife before use

UTILITY KNIFE SAFETY TIPS:

- Wear safety glasses to protect your eyes in case the blade breaks.
- Use a sharp blade—dull ones require more force and increase the risk of injury.
- Wear cut-resistant gloves to protect your hands.
- Pass the knife handle-first when handing it to a co-worker.
- Consider self-retracting blades for added safety.
- Check that the blade is properly secured in the handle before use.
- Keep hands and fingers clear of the cutting path.
- Avoid using excessive force while cutting.
- Follow the manufacturer's instructions when changing blades—never use the knife to pry objects.
- Dispose of dull or broken blades in a puncture-resistant container.

REMEMBER:

Unsafe acts - might just keep you in stitches!

It only takes a split second of distraction for a blade to slip and cause an injury.

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