

Jason Mechanical Corp

Tool Box Safety Talk

Basic Tools

Much is written about powered (electric, gas, pneumatic, and powder) tools and the importance of guards and other safety related topics. Seldom are the hazards associated with simple, non-powered tools addressed. Every tool is potentially dangerous if not properly used. For the purpose of this Safety Meeting, basic tools would include, but are not limited to: hammers, screwdrivers, shovels, pry bars, axes, shears, utility knives, wrenches, brooms, and chisels.

Below are five guidelines for basic tool use.

1: Never use a tool for a purpose other than that for which it was designed!

Improper use of a tool will certainly damage it and may result in injury if the tool slips or breaks.

2: Never exceed a tool's design limits!

It is easy to exceed a tool's design limits by placing a hollow pipe over a hand tool such as a claw hammer or wrench. If the tool cannot do the job being properly used, you've got the wrong tool. Exceeding a tool's design limits will certainly damage the tool and, of course, expose yourself to injury if it slips or breaks.

3: Inspect tools before use.

Crack or splintered handles, loose heads, "mushroomed" striking surfaces, dull chisels or blades, bent shafts, worn or deformed ends -- all potentially dangerous conditions for tool use. Either repair or replace damaged tools -- do not use them!

4: Clean tools after use.

It is much easier to clean and/or lubricate tools immediately after use than waiting till the tools become encrusted with gunk or rust. This is an ideal time, as a matter of course, to inspect the tool, fulfilling the 3rd guideline above.

5: Store tools properly.

If tools are properly stored, automatically, over time, you will save hours not having to look for them. From a safety standpoint, you have the right tool at the right time. You will not reach into a tool box and, while rummaging around, cut yourself on an exposed sharp object. You will not trip on tools. Tools in tool belts will not fall from heights and hit persons below.