

Jason Mechanical Corp

Tool Box Safety Talk

Power-Actuated Tools

A powder-actuated fastening tool propels a nail, pin, or fastener through an object to fasten it to another object. These tools, if misused, are extremely dangerous because essentially, they are similar to a pistol or rifle.

The speed of the projectile may range from 300 ft/second to 1290 ft/second.

Only trained and authorized persons may operate a powder actuated tool and, for safety, these tools should be kept secured when not in use.

Prior to use, the tool must be inspected and tested according to the manufacturer's instruction manual which should be kept with the tool. Defective tools must not be used and they must be taken out of service. Use of appropriate personal protective equipment - including, at least, eye/face and ear protection -- is required not only for the operator, but also those employees in the vicinity.

On the job site, each tool should be accompanied by: 1) its container; 2.) the operator's instruction & service manuals; 3) the tool inspection record; and 4) service tools & accessories.

Tools must not be loaded until just before firing and, under no circumstances, are they to be pointed at any person. Hands must be kept clear of the open barrel end. A powder activated tool must never be left unattended -- loaded or empty -- for safety and security reasons.

Fasteners must not be driven into very hard or brittle materials such as cast iron, glazed tile, surface-hardened steel, glass block, live rock, face brick or hollow tile; easily penetrated materials unless these materials are backed by a substance; nor a damaged area caused by an unsatisfactory fastening. Of course, these tools must never be used in an explosive or flammable atmosphere.

Before fastening questionable material, the operator can determine its suitability by using a fastener as a center punch. If the fastener point does not easily penetrate, is not blunted, and does not fracture the material, initial test fastenings will be made in accordance with the manufacturer's instructions.

The tool must be held perpendicular to the work surface and in the event of a misfire, the operator must hold the tool firmly against the work surface and follow, exactly, the manufacturer's instructions.

Tools must be used with the correct shield, guard, or attachments recommended by the manufacturer.

Because the case and load are color coded, it is imperative that the operator can distinguish the colors of brass and nickel as well as gray, brown, green, yellow and red and purple.