



Toolbox Talks

Electrical Tools



Workers should be trained in the proper use of all electrical tools they may be required to use. Workers should also be able to recognize the hazards associated with the different types of power tools and take all the safety precautions necessary.

The basic rules for using electrical tools safely include:

- Use the right tool for the job.
- Inspect each tool for damage before use.
- Keep all tools in good condition with regular maintenance.
- Operate tools according to the manufacturer's instructions.
- Wear the proper personal protective equipment (PPE).
- Never use a damaged tool. Take damaged tools out of service immediately.

Additional safety precautions to remember:

- Keep everyone not involved in the work at a safe distance from the work area.
- Never carry a tool by the cord.
- Never yank the cord to disconnect it from the outlet.
- Keep cords away from heat, oil, and sharp edges.
- Store electric tools in a dry place when not in use.

➤ Employees who use electrical tools and are exposed to the hazards of falling, flying, abrasive, and splashing objects, or to harmful dusts, fumes, mists, vapors, or gases must select and wear appropriate personal protective equipment (PPE).

When extension cords are used with electrical power tools, they introduce additional hazards to the work area.

When a worker handling a damaged extension cord touches exposed wires while holding a metal tool case or contacting a conductive surface, serious electrical shock can result, causing a fall, physical injury, or death.

➤ Ensure that cords from electric tools, as well as extension cords, do not present a tripping hazard.

The best way to prevent injuries from the high-speed hazards of electrical tools is to always keep your hands on the handles of the tools and keep all guards in place. **Never remove or alter safety guards on an electrical tool.**

In addition to injuries like lacerations, amputations and eye trauma, workers using electrical tools are at a greater risk for even more serious hazards like electrical burns, shocks, and falls due to shocks.

➤ Double-insulated tools are generally recommended as they provide an internal layer of protective insulation that completely isolates the external housing of the tool.

➤ All electrical connections for electrical tools must be suitable for the type of tool and the working conditions (wet, dusty, flammable vapors).

