



<b>Topic</b>	<b>HOW TO STAY SAFE WHILE WORKING WITH POWER HAND TOOLS</b>
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With the amount of power and electricity used to operate almost everything around us, it is easy to forget that electricity can be fatal. Many people go about their lives without paying attention to the hazards in our work environment and our homes.

Power tools are especially dangerous to their users, as they can cause serious injuries if they are not well maintained, stored, or used properly.

To avoid this risk, one must be aware of the safety measure each time he uses a power tool to achieve optimum safety. In this guide, we highlight the most important safety tips that you should follow when handling one of these tools.

### **ELECTRICAL POWER TOOLS**

There are special safety measures when it comes to using electric power tools like you should never use a power tool if the floor is wet, unclean, or cluttered.

Make sure to remove all obstacles out of the way to avoid nasty accidents. Water conducts electricity, so it is not impossible to be electrocuted simply because the floor wasn't dry. For that reason, always ensure that the floors are clean, dry, and uncluttered. If the tool is wet, do not use it until it dries, unless these tools are approved for use while wet.

### **INSPECT YOUR TOOLS FIRST**

You may have been using them for years or you might have just bought them. Either way, you will need to inspect the power tools that you have before you put it into use. When you are using a power tool, you want the best tools so that you can carry out your projects or work successfully.

It is crucial to use reliable sources to ensure that you don't have defective tools. Using defective or damaged tools will, of course, be dangerous, causing serious injuries, sight or auditory damage, or an electric shock.

For that reason, it is important to make sure that the electric cords are in good condition. If they operate on battery energy, check the batteries, and see if they are functioning properly as well.

If you are using pneumatic power tools, make sure that the compressed air supply corresponds to the compression rate of pneumatic tools that you have.

### **WEAR PERSONAL PROTECTIVE EQUIPMENT**

Quality, however, will not help you much when it comes to safety. If you want to increase your safety when you use power, this will be done all on your own and not because you are using a certain model. You can start doing this by getting Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) and wear these whenever

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# BASIC SAFETY AND TRAINING SOLUTIONS

## TOOLBOX TALK

Governing procedure: SANS ISO 9001:2015

you start operating one of your tools. PPE attire mainly consists of face shields and/ or goggles, gloves, isolation gowns, earmuffs or earplugs, half-face respirators or disposable respirators, safety boots, and safety helmets.

### PNEUMATIC TOOLS

When it comes to pneumatic tools, you will need to make sure that all parts of the tools are fastened before you use them. Pointing an air gun at yourself or anyone else is a big no, even if the pressure is released. Pneumatic tools can be dangerous for your eyes, so always make sure that they are protected with goggles or glasses.

Also, using a safety clip or a retainer will prevent attachments from breaking off while you're operating a pneumatic tool. If there are other workers around you, be sure to use screens to protect them from flying fragments.

For extra safety, release the pressure from your pneumatic tools before you break the connections and ensure that your air gun is stored while not loaded.

### CLOTHING HAZARDS

Clothes can also pose a danger. Long, loose fitting sleeves, long hair, or long pant legs will cause obstacles for you and will limit your efficiency while working.

In a worst-case scenario, you might be injured, so it's important to wear proper fitting clothing for operating power tools and keep personal jewellery stored away before using such equipment.

- It should be noted that you must always abide by these safety rules and make a checklist if it helps.
- Ensure that you read the manufacturers manuals for any tools you will be using.
- Ensure you have received training in any tool that you operate. If you do not feel confident with any tool, inform your supervisor.
- Remember to check your surroundings and inform others in the vicinity of any activities you will be performing there, so that they can also implement their own mitigation measures.
- Use Safety Equipment provided by your company such as, Welding Screens, Warning signage, Fire Extinguishers, and barricading.

Continue to follow these procedures and you will soon abandon your unsafe habits and be a proactive participant in establishing a safe and secure work environment for you and your colleagues.

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