

According to a study conducted by the Consumer Product Safety Commission, hand and power tool injuries send an average of 400,000 people to the emergency room each year. These tools can cause lacerations, puncture wounds, dismemberment, burns, electrical shock, and death, especially if used incorrectly or carelessly. By working safely with hand tools, you significantly reduce the risk of these injuries and create a safer work environment for everyone. Here are some key points to remember:

1

Select the Right Tool: Use the appropriate hand tool for the job at hand. Using the wrong tool not only increases the risk of accidents but also hinders productivity and may damage both the tool and the workpiece.



2

Inspect Tools Regularly: Before using any hand tool, inspect it for any signs of damage or wear. Broken or damaged tools should never be used and should be reported to the supervisor for repair or replacement. Safety switches, machine guards, and any other safety elements of a hand tool or power tool, must not be removed, manipulated or tampered with.



3

Wear Personal Protective Equipment (PPE): Always wear the necessary PPE, such as safety gloves, goggles, or hearing protection, when using hand tools. PPE helps minimize the risk of injury and provides an additional layer of protection.

4

Maintain Proper Technique: Use hand tools with the correct grip and technique. Avoid using excessive force or making awkward movements that could strain muscles or cause accidents. Take breaks as needed to prevent fatigue and maintain focus.



5

Keep Work Areas Clean and Organized: Cluttered work areas increase the risk of accidents. Keep workspaces clean and organized, and always store hand tools properly when not in use to prevent trips, falls, or injuries from stray tools.

LEARN MORE WITH THESE ADDITIONAL RESOURCES:

- [TMLIRP Media Library](#) 1) Preventing Hand Injury, DVD #735 and Power and Hand Tool Safety, DVD #539
- TDI [Safety at Work Free Online Safety Videos](#)