



Tools...Tools...and More Tools

It's sometimes those little pesky hand tools that cause so many "dings" on our fingers, our knuckles, our elbows, and our wrists. They aren't necessarily life-threatening, but they sure do affect our dexterity when performing routine work functions.

Carpenter Tools

Carpenters aren't the only craftsmen that use carpentry tools. Many trades use hammers, nails, drills, ladders and saws. Although a shovel is a ditch digger's stock-in-trade, contractors' employees are often involved in carpentry activities. Therefore, follow these simple rules:

- **Erect scaffolds and supports** from materials strong enough to carry the load. Construct platforms of sound lumber. Secure toe boards and handrails in place.
- **Hold side rails** with both hands when going up or down a ladder. Use rope to raise or lower materials and tools.
- **Sharp cutting tools** are safer than dull ones. Do not use tools with defective handles or mushroomed heads. Keep saws properly set.
- **Keep boards with nails** out of passageways and work spaces. Nails should be pulled out, or boards piled out of the way.
- **Never leave loose boards** or tools on scaffolds, runways, or platforms where they could be knocked onto people below or cause workers to trip.
- **Keep work shoes** in good condition to assure solid footing.
- **Do not carry sharp edged** tools in your pockets unless the edges are protected in a sheath.
- **Clean up** all loose material at the end of each work day.
- **Place an adequate number** of red lights or warning devices in places where material is close to a walk or passageway used at night. Barricade passageways where objects could fall from overhead.

CAUTION...CAUTION...CAUTION...CAUTION...CAUTION...CAUTION...CAUTION

Never, never, never, never leave any protruding nails in scrap lumber, concrete forming, scaffolding, etc. Never!!!!

Hand Tools

Of all the equipment placed at our disposal, the most common hand tools, which we take for granted, are the most useful and the most often abused. What can you do to avoid a personal accident involving the improper use of hand tools? Try these ideas:

- **Choose the right tool** for the job. Never use a makeshift tool.
- **Only use tools** in good condition, not tools with cracked or broken handles or with mushroomed or broken heads.
- **Keep** keen-edged blades sharp.
- **Store hand tools** safely when not in use.
- **Do not use** a hammer with a hardened face on a highly tempered tool, such as a drill, file, die, or jig. Chips may fly.
- **Use the correct-size** wrench for the job.
- **Face the jaws** of an adjustable wrench in the direction of the pull.
- **Never apply** a wrench to moving machinery. Stop the machine, then remove all tools before starting again.
- **See that pipe-wrench** jaws are sharp and chains are in good condition so they will not slip.
- **Never use any tool** in a way that will cause injury if it slips. Pre-analyze your movements and position your body accordingly.
- **Keep guards** in place and in working order.
- **Use safety glasses** with most tools, use face or dust masks if cutting operation is dusty.
- **The construction industry** calls for the use of many hand tools. Handle them with care, treat them carefully, and use them exactly for the purpose for which they were made.

Professionals take exceptionally good care of all of their tools, instruments, equipment, machinery and personal protective equipment. As a construction "professional," take exceptionally good care of all of these items that are entrusted to you on the jobsite. It's your life and your welfare.