

Hand tool safety

Hand tools are generally used for manual operation; however, hand tools can be used for much more than their intended use. When this happens, injuries can occur. This can include but not be limited to abrasions, cuts, lacerations, punctures, pinches, broken bones, and even worse, amputations.

It's important to take the proper safety measures when it comes to working with hand tools.

Some safety measures to follow include:

- Use the correct tool for the job. Never use a screwdriver for a chisel or a wrench as a hammer. Performing this type of behavior won't just damage the tool, it can lead to injuries.
- Do not use broken tools. These should be discarded and removed.
- Never toss tools to a co-worker. Always pass tools by the handle.
- Always keep tools clean.
- When using razor blades, cut away from your body. Replace blades as needed and do not use broken razor blades. Blades should be kept in a tool holder that will retract the blade when they aren't in use. Razor blades should never be left exposed when not in use.
- Follow all manufacturers' instructions when it comes to handling the tool.
- Do not use cheater bars to extend the handle on a handheld tool.
- Fit the tool for the right type of job.
- C-clamps are not rated to hoist material up, they are to be used as a temporary hold assist.
- Clamps should not be used for permanent fastening.
- Never pound on a tool with another tool to make it fit.
- Never use makeshift crowbars.
- Secure good balance when using hand tools.

If using hand tools for a prolonged period of time, it's important to take short breaks to rest your joints and muscles. Take time to stretch your fingers, legs, arms, back, and shoulders. A good rule of thumb is a two-minute break every 30-45 minutes.

When on a jobsite, always wear the appropriate personal protective equipment (PPE) for the job that is being conducted. This includes:

- Eye protection
- Gloves
- Hard hats
- Steel toe boots/shoes

Most importantly, take your time and focus on the task at hand to help reduce any potential injury.

The information and recommendations contained in this material have been obtained from sources believed to be reliable. However, SECURA accepts no legal responsibility for the accuracy, sufficiency, or completeness of such information. Additional safety and health procedures may be required under particular circumstances. Please contact your SECURA Risk Management Consultant for more information.

Hand Tool Safety Training Sign-In

Trainer Name: _____

Date: _____ Location: _____

Start Time: _____ End Time: _____

Trainees

Printed Name

Signature

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I hereby certify that I presented and these people received the Hand Tool Safety training:

Trainer (Signature) _____