

Important Things For You to Remember About ...



Power Tool Safety

- ONLY TRAINED AND AUTHORIZED EMPLOYEES CAN OPERATE POWER TOOLS
- TRAINED EMPLOYEES SHOULD REVIEW THE TOOL'S MANUAL FOR EACH TOOL USED
- DO NOT MODIFY OR ALTER ANY POWER TOOL

General power tool safety

- All guards and safety devices must be kept intact and used at all times; if a guard or other safety device is missing or damaged, take the tool out of service and tag it as unsafe
- Inspect power tools and any accessories, such as extension cords, prior to use
- Safety glasses with side shields are always required when using power tools; any other PPE that is required must also be worn
- Take precautions to protect others in the area from hazards created by power tool use:
 - use caution tape, traffic cones or other barricades to isolate the area;
 - post warning signs;
 - erect temporary barriers;
 - hold pre-job conferences with personnel in the work area; and
 - schedule work for when others are not present in the work area.
- Inspect the work area for hazards prior to power tool use
- Always consider body placement:
 1. Never use hands or other body parts to support a work piece
 2. Keep body parts out of the path of the power tool and also out of the path of chips and other debris that can be created by operating the tool

- Evaluate the force being applied to hold and advance the tool; be sure that this force will not cause you to fall or lose your balance as the work progresses
- Store tools in a location that will:
 1. Protect easily-damaged parts and components
 2. Prevent theft and easy access by unauthorized personnel

Electric power tools

- Always plug the tool into a GFCI receptacle or extension cord equipped with a GFCI
- Keep cords out of aisles and traffic areas where they could be damaged by traffic and/or cause pedestrians to trip
- Be sure that your hands are dry and that the tools and cords are kept away from wet environments
- Keep cords away from heat sources and/or equipment that could cause mechanical damage
- Check to be sure cords are rated for the same amperage as the tool
- When using electric or pneumatic tools, always route cords and hoses so that they are not tripping hazards

Pneumatic power tools

- Never use oxygen, nitrogen (or other inert gasses) or flammable gasses to power a tool; only compressed air can be used to power pneumatic tools.

- Compressed air fittings are distinct and different from other gasses within our facility to prevent you from mistaking another gas for compressed air
- Compressed air can act as an oxidizer and increase the burning rate of combustible and flammable liquids; never direct compressed air into these chemicals
- Inspect hoses prior to use
- Be sure that tools are secured into couplings and that couplings are secured to each other
- Check the direction of tool exhaust to assure that it will not blow dust or other debris toward you or others

Internal combustion powered tools

- If the exhaust contains carbon monoxide, an asphyxiation hazard, adequate ventilation is required at all times
- Prior to refueling, the engine must be turned off and allowed to cool
- Store fuel in approved containers in a secure location away from ignition sources and possible damage that could lead to spills
- Check grinders and saws for blade/stone tightness prior to each use; also check chain saw chain tension prior to use
- Tools with a chuck should be checked for the following prior to use:
 1. The chuck is tight
 2. The chuck key is removed from the chuck prior to use

Lawnmowers

- Safety shoes must be worn during use
- Inspect the area and remove any foreign material (rocks, cans, bottles, metal objects, etc.) prior to cutting
- Never lift lawnmowers while running
- Never operate lawnmowers on grades exceeding the manufacturer's recommendations