

Home & Garden Tool Safety Tips

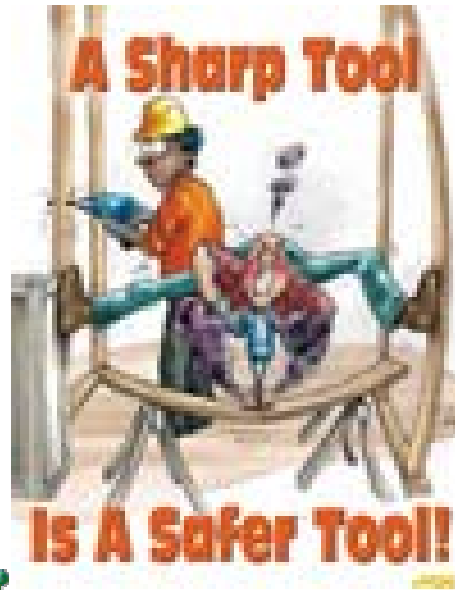
It's Time for all of those home and garden projects that do-it-yourselfers can't wait to get started on each weekend

HOME TOOL SAFETY

The U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission estimates that more than four million injuries involving typical do-it-yourself projects are reported to hospital emergency rooms each year. "The most common injuries are cuts." The rule is use the proper tool for the job and follow manufacturers safety precautions listed in the owner's manual.

Common safety precautions include:

- 1) Always use safety glasses or goggles.
- 2) Use earplugs to protect your hearing.
- 3) Keep gloves and clothing away from moving parts of machinery. That goes for long hair, too.
- 4) Power saw blades have protective guards. Make sure the guards are in a good working condition. Saw blades should come to a full stop before you set the saws down or move stock on a table saw.
- 5) When using a drill, do not press too hard against the drill. The bit could break or slip, and you could be injured.
- 6) Do not use a screwdriver as a chisel. The steel tips are not as hard, and the metal can splinter or break and become a flying missile.
- 7) When using outdoor electrical tools, you should have a GFCI (ground fault circuit interrupter) outlet for protection.
- 8) If you have to push or place a lot of pressure when using a wrench, think about what can happen if the wrench should slip. Busted knuckles will heal, but a fall from a ladder could be fatal.
- 9) Keep torches and soldering guns away from flammable materials. Hot soldering guns and falling solder cause serious burns or damage decorative surfaces.
- 10) Most shop injuries are caused by careless use of the common hammer. Gently tap a nail or brad to get it started, then move your fingers out of the way before driving the nail home. Make sure there is enough room to swing the hammer without having it bounce off another object, striking you in the head. That's right, I have seen experienced carpenters knock themselves silly trying to hammer in a confined space.



Know How to Operate your Equipment

Read and understand the operator and safety manuals.

Know the controls and how they work. Follow safety instructions.

ALWAYS WEAR THE PROPER PROTECTIVE GEAR



LAWN MOWERS, EDGERS, AND MORE

Mowers

- Wear sturdy shoes while mowing.
- Prevent injuries from flying objects, such as stones or toys, by picking up objects from the lawn before mowing begins.
- While the lawn is being mowed, keep others away to ensure their safety.
- Do not allow children to operate lawn mowers. A good rule: If you're not comfortable with them driving your automobile, you should not allow them to operate a lawn mower - whether it's a walk-behind or riding mower.

Walk-Behind Lawn Mowers

- Mow across a hill (not up and down) to avoid falls. Do not mow on a steep hill.
- Keep the mower flat on the ground. Never lift the mower.
- Shut off engine when adjusting mower height.
- If you hit something, stop the mower and turn it off. See if the mower is damaged before starting the machine. Standard Safety Feature: Operator Presence Control (OPC) ensures that the blade comes to a complete stop within three seconds after the blade control is released.

Help The Environment: Mowers equipped with a mulching feature will finely cut and re-cut grass clippings and return them to the turf. These clippings provide moisture and nutrients to keep your yard greener and healthier, and reduce yard waste.

Edger / Trimmers

Wheeled And Walk Behind:

- Keep hands and feet away from rotating parts while engine is running.
 - Stop the engine when crossing gravel or any place where thrown objects might be a hazard.
 - Do not over speed the engine.
 - If you hit an object, stop the engine immediately. Turn it off and check for damage. Repair anything before restarting.
- ### Garden Tillers Front-Tine And Rear Tine:
- If you hit an object, stop the tiller immediately. Turn it off and check for damage. Repair anything before starting up.
 - Keep hands and feet away from rotating parts while engine is running.
 - Stop the engine when crossing gravel or any place where thrown objects might be a hazard