

ELECTRIC POWER TOOLS

The basic rules for using electrical tools safely include:

- Use the right tool for the job.
- Inspect each tool for damage before use. Keep all tools in good condition with regular maintenance.
- Operate tools according to the manufacturer's instructions.
- Wear the proper personal protective equipment (PPE).
- Never use a damaged tool. Take damaged tools out of service immediately.

OSHA Standard 1926.300(a) *All hand and power tools and similar equipment, whether furnished by the employer or the employee, shall be maintained in a safe condition.*

The best way to prevent injuries from the high-speed hazards of electrical tools is to always keep your hands on the handles of the tools and keep all guards in place.

- Never remove or alter safety guards on an electrical tool.
- Avoid accidental starting. Do not hold fingers on the switch button while carrying a plugged-in tool.
- Be sure to keep good footing and maintain good balance when operating power tools.
- Keep work areas well lighted when operating electric tools.

Additional safety precautions to remember:

- Keep everyone not involved in the work at a safe distance from the work area.
- Never carry a tool by the cord.
- Never yank the cord to disconnect it from the outlet.
- Keep cords away from heat, oil, and sharp edges.
- Store electric tools in a dry place when not in use.



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Discussion

Can you think of any more safety precautions or best practices that are important for electric power tool use, maintenance, and storage?