

Job Safety Features

Reciprocating Saw Safety

Cutting Metal With the correct blade, a reciprocating saw can easily cut metal such as pipe and angle iron. However, cutting metal generates heat. Always make sure the saw blade and the metal are cool before touching them. Also, make sure that the metal being cut will drop clear of the saw's power cord or it could damage the cord.

Belt Sander Safety

Clamping the Work Piece Small or moderate-size pieces of wood can be ejected behind a belt sander at high speed, particularly when using a coarse-grit belt. Even a loose sheet of plywood can move under the right conditions. Use clamps or cleats to prevent the work from moving side to side.

Power Saw Safety

Choosing a Power Saw When using a circular saw, avoid making a cut that's above chest level. It is difficult to hold the saw properly in this awkward position. Reposition yourself or reposition the work piece so that you can cut more safely. Another method is use a reciprocating saw or a handsaw instead. These saws are lighter and easier to control.

Electric Drill Safety

Understanding Drill Speed Most drills built for general utility use run at a top speed of about 1200 rpm. Drills designed for very heavy-duty work have motors that are geared down to run in the range of 400-600 rpm. This dramatically increases the drill's torque (turning force). Always use an auxiliary handle to help control high-torque drills. Otherwise the tool may suddenly twist out of control if it hits a knot or some other obstruction.

General Safety

Avoiding a Tetanus Infection Many workers are injured by splinters and nail punctures. Even if the wound does not seem severe, it can be dangerous if soil enters it. This is due to the risk of tetanus infection. Tetanus is a bacterium found abundantly in soil. It can thrive in a wound and may lead to death if left untreated. Most children are immunized against tetanus, but adults must receive booster shots periodically to maintain the protection. Before working on a jobsite, make sure your tetanus immunization is up to date.

Jigsaw Safety

Checking Blade Depth To find out how deep you can cut with a jigsaw, turn off the saw and check the blade at the bottom of its stroke. Knowing the blade's clearance is also important in order to avoid cutting through obstructions that might be under the work piece, such as the tool's power cord.

Miter saw Safety

Securing a Compound Miter Saw A slide-compound saw can become unstable due to the changing position of the saw motor during a cut. Always be sure the saw is securely attached to a solid surface before making a cut. Never use an unsecured saw.

Stud Gun Safety

Hearing Protection The sound of a stud gun can damage hearing in any setting. However, the danger of hearing damage increases dramatically when the tool is used in enclosed areas surrounded by hard surfaces such as concrete. Always wear hearing protection suitable for the severity of sound you will encounter.