

Power tools

Portable power tools are designed for a wide variety of uses. Circular saws, jig saws, drills, hammer drills, sanders, grinders, routers and numerous other power tools save us time and effort on the job. The growing popularity of cordless battery-operated tools is putting power tools to use in more places than ever before, heightening the need for awareness of the dangers they present if not operated properly. The following safety rules are common to all power tools. In addition, each type of tool has its own unique hazards, which must be taken into account.

- Read the owner's manual to understand the tools proper applications, limitations, operation and hazards
- Do not use electric power tools in the proximity of flammable vapors, dusts or construction materials. Also avoid using electric power tools in wet environments
- Select a tool based on the task for which it is designed
- Use Personal Protective Equipment; gloves, eye gear, noise suppression, that is appropriate for job and the tool in use.
- Protect yourself from electric shock by insuring your tools are properly grounded; use a Ground Fault Circuit Interrupter for corded tools
- Always check for hidden wires that may contact bladed tools
- Only use attachments specifically recommended for your power tools, and ensure their proper installation.
- Inspect tools for damage including the cord, presence of guards, correct alignment, binding of components, or any condition that would affect the operation of the tool.
- If a tool is damaged, or a condition develops while a tool is in use, have the tool fixed before using it again.
- Avoid excessive force to make cutting tools cut faster; feed material only as fast as the tool is designed to accept to prevent excessive wear and decreased control.
- Keep others away from the work area, or provide shields to stop flying debris and other distractions.
- Secure your work in a vise or clamp for increased stability.
- Always maintain tool control by keeping a tight grip on a tool.
- Maintain your balance and do not overreach.
- Do not operate a power tool if you are under the influence of medications or alcohol, or if you are tired or distracted.
- Use the tools side handle, if available, for better control.
- Verify that all tools are unplugged or that the power source is removed when changing blades, performing maintenance or when tools are not in use.
- Be sure adjustment knobs are tightened and remove any adjustment keys before use.
- Avoid unintentional tool start-up by keeping your finger off of the power switch.