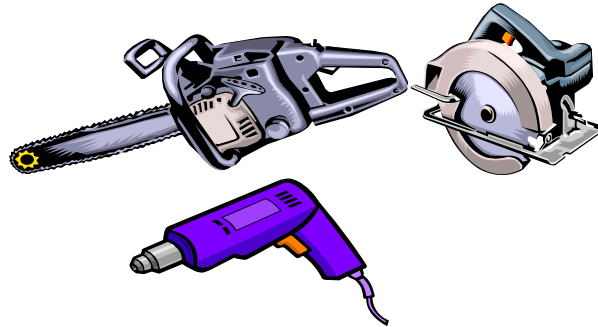




POWER TOOL SAFETY



Safety plays a big part when working with power tools. Anything from interruptions while at work to faulty electric connections can be hazardous.

Personal Protection

Use appropriate safety equipment such as goggles, earplugs, and dust masks. Do not wear gloves when working with most tools. Always wear eye protection when working with metal. Do not wear sandals, open-toed or canvas shoes when working with tools. Avoid loose-fitting clothes that might become entangled in a power tool. Remove rings and other jewelry.

Do not operate power tools when you are ill, taking strong medications, fatigued or consuming alcoholic drinks. Do not smoke while working with tools.

Before Using Power Tools

When buying power tools take into consideration the weight, shape, size and use of the tool. Hold the power tool as it would be used and think about problems and accidents that could arise. Note the hand and wrist positions and forces or effort required to use the tool. Consider the handle position, balance and center of gravity, along with the weight of the tool. Make sure all guards and safety devices are in place.

Read the owner's manual before using any tool. Never use a tool unless you are trained to do so. Inspect it before each use and replace or repair if parts are worn or damaged. Repair tools only if you are trained to do so, otherwise have a dealer or an expert do the repairs.

Repairing and Cleaning Power Tools

ALWAYS turn off and unplug a power tool before:

- Adjusting, oiling, cleaning or repairing it.
- Attaching an accessory.
- Changing bits, blades or grinding wheels.
- Unplug or lockout tools when not in use.
- Unplug tools by pulling directly on the plug.
- Do not leave tools, hardware and other materials out when not in use, especially when children are in the home.

Work Areas

Keeping your work area clean and dry can help prevent many accidents. Sparks can ignite scraps, sawdust and solvents. Water can conduct electricity. Do not stand in water on damp floors or in the rain when working with electrical tools. Keep hands and tools dry.

Install adequate wiring to handle the electrical load required. Never use indoor tools outside. Use only approved outdoor extension cords.

When working on ladders or scaffolding, rest power tools on a flat surface or in a bin secured to the ladder itself. A falling tool can seriously injure a co-worker or bystander. Never carry heavy power tools up and down ladders.

Safety Tips:

- Stop working when distracted. Never look away from your work when operating a power tool.
- If a cutting tool stalls, switch off the power and unplug the tool before trying to restart it. Never use your hands to clear the scraps from a sawing worktable. Use a long stick instead.
- Take extra care when working with hazardous materials. Handle fiberglass with care. Its particles can irritate the skin, eyes, and respiratory system. When soldering, remember that lead solder is toxic. The work area should be ventilated, and you should wear a small respirator.
- Avoid operating power tools in locations where sparks could ignite flammable vapors. Keep your shop well ventilated and flammable materials properly stored.
- Used rags, especially oily and greasy ones, should be kept in a covered metal container. Rags should be a safe distance from the welder.

Chain Saws – What you don't know can hurt you.

Chainsaws are popular among many homeowners. However, in the hands of a careless or inexperienced operator, chain saws can be very hazardous. The operator coming into contact with a moving chain saw blade causes most chain saw accidents. Injuries from a chain saw are usually serious because they leave a jagged cut.

First in preparing to operate the saw safely, read and study the operator's manual. Make sure you are outfitted appropriately before using the saw:

- Clothing should be well fitted and free of dangling or ragged edges.
- A hard hat protects your head from falling limbs or branches.
- Safety goggles or safety eyeglasses with side shields prevent injury from flying wood chips, twigs and sawdust.
- A good pair of earplugs protects your ears from exposure to the 95 plus decibel noise level from the saw.
- A good pair of lightweight leather gloves protects your hands from abrasions, splinters and cuts.
- A pair of safety boots or shoes with high tops will help protect your ankles in the event of accidental contact with the moving saw blade. Steel toes will help protect your feet from injury from falling limbs or logs.

Never make cuts with the saw between your legs. Never straddle the limb you are cutting. Always be aware of the direction the chain will go if it breaks, and keep people clear of this area. Stand on the side of the trunk opposite the limb you are cutting.

Finding the Right Chain Saw for the Job

- Mini or lightweight saws have 8-12 inch guide bars; they are for light and occasional use for limbing, cutting small logs and felling very small trees.
- Midweight saws have 14-20 inch guide bars; they can be used for frequent log cutting and felling of small trees.
- Heavyweight saws have guide bars that are more than 20 inches long. These saws are not generally recommended for non-professional saw owners.