

A distinguishing characteristic of a craftsman is that he uses tools properly. A beginner is often hazardous simply because he does not use tools for the purpose for which they are intended.

For example, he may use a screwdriver instead of a chisel. If a hammer isn't handy, he may choose to use a heavy wrench to pound the nail instead.

Many people try to speed through a job and consequently use inappropriate tools.

How many people have you seen use a butter knife for a screwdriver? Or a sharp knife for a punch? You will fare far better if you take the time to obtain and use the right tool for the job.

To make your job easier, inspect your tools prior to use. Check the heads of hammers, chisels, and punches for mushroomed or chipped areas. Be sure the points are not bent or broken. Check drill bits and augers to be sure that they are not dull, worn, or otherwise damaged.

Check files for missing or broken handles. Check file tangs to be sure that they aren't bent, broken, or chipped. Wrench jaws may sometimes spread as a result of heavy use. Hammers often become worn and have loose or cracked handles.



HAND TOOL SAFETY

One safety report recorded an incident in which a sliver of a hammer head chipped off and flew into the worker's eye. A simple inspection of the hammer before use and/or wearing safety glasses while working would have prevented the injury. The report also indicated that a worker received a broken hand while adjusting machinery. He used pliers rather than the appropriate wrench, and they slipped off.

Defective power tools should be carefully weeded out, too. Inspect for potential dangers such as broken insulation, loose connections, worn brushings, sparking, or deficiencies in the plugs or switches. Ensure that all power tools are double-insulated or third-wire grounded. If any faults are identified, notify your supervisor as soon as possible.

The cutting surfaces of knives, chisels, drills, augers, and other tools of that kind be kept sharp. It makes them safer to use. Accidents that occur as a result of dull edges can produce eye injuries, fractures, punctures, cuts, and bruises.

Store tools appropriately and care for them properly to help prevent accidents. Be sure tools are returned to storage at the end of your shift. Use a tool box, cart, or tool belt to transport tools from storage to your work area. Use a bucket or bag with a rope to lift or lower tools.

Although we haven't covered every single tool we use, the basic safety principles should help guide you in the right direction. If you have any questions about how to use a tool safely, ask your supervisor.

THE State Auto Group

Corporate Headquarters Address:

518 E. Broad Street, Columbus, Ohio 43215

Phone: (614) 464-5000