

# Hand Tools

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Tools are part of every construction job and hand tools are needed for almost any task. However, hand tools, when used improperly or not kept in good condition, can also result in very serious injuries. Workers should be sure that they take good care of their hand tools and avoid common injuries such as:

- Severe cuts that could require stitches
- Scrapes and bruises that can end up as skin infections
- Eye injuries from chipping or chiseling
- Electrical shocks from using improperly insulated tools for electrical work

**OSHA Standard 1926.301(a)** says that *employers shall not issue or permit the use of unsafe hand tools.*

**OSHA Standard 1926.301(d)** *The wooden handles of tools shall be kept free of splinters or cracks and shall be kept tight in the tool.*

- Hand tools have to be inspected before use. Look for any damage such as cracks in handles, sharp edges, or splintering. Make sure that tools are not covered in paint, grease, or dirt that can create a hazard or hide a serious defect.

**OSHA Standard 1926.301(b)** *Wrenches, including adjustable, pipe, end, and socket wrenches shall not be used when jaws are sprung to the point that slippage occurs.*

- Never use rusted, cracked, or warped tools!
- Wrenches that are warped, rusted, or sprung can result in breaking or slippage that lead to serious hand injuries.
- Spades, shovels, and other long handled tools should not be used unless in good working condition.

**OSHA Standard 1926.301(c)** *Impact tools, such as drift pins, wedges, and chisels, shall be kept free of mushroomed heads.*

- Always use the proper attachments, handles, and grips provided by the manufacturer!
- Never use impact tools that have mushroomed heads. They can chip and send pieces flying off as projectiles.

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