

Tools are common in many workplace settings and power tools are especially important to get the job done, however it is important to remember that electrical tools can pose significant hazards. Workers should be sure that they are familiar with the specific hazards of the tools they use including hazards such as:

- Electrical Shock
- Lacerations
- Eye Injuries
- Amputations
- Trip & Fall Accidents
- Puncture Wounds

Injuries with tools often happen when workers fail to use them as intended, remove guards designed for their own safety, or forget to inspect them before using. Workers should be trained on the safe handling and care of the power tools they will be using on the job and be reminded regularly to follow safe work practices every time they use their tools.

OSHA Standard 1910.242(a) *Each employer shall be responsible for the safe condition of tools and equipment used by employees, including tools and equipment which may be furnished by employees.*

- Always inspect electrical tools, extension cords, guards and safety devices before use.
- Inspect tools for any damage such as cut or frayed cords, cracks, or signs of electrical damage.
- Ensure that tools are not covered in paint, grease, or dirt that can create a hazard or hide a serious defect.
- Only use electrical tools that have a proper grounding pin or are designed with double insulated protection.
- Never remove or pin back guards on circular saws or other tools.
- Always use the proper attachments, handles, and grips provided by the manufacturer.
- Keep cords away from heat and sharp edges.
- If any power tool, cord, guard, safety device or accessory is damaged, remove it from service immediately.
- Be sure to keep stable footing and maintain good balance while using electrical tools.
- Do not use electrical tools in wet conditions unless they are approved for that use.

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