

Pneumatic tools, powered by compressed air, can be a useful and portable addition to electrical tools in industrial workshops. The air compressors that power pneumatic tools must be used correctly to ensure the safety of all employees in the work area. All employees who are authorized to use pneumatic tools should be trained on safe tool operation as well as inspection, compressed air hazards, proper PPE requirements and tool storage.

- Getting hit by an attachment or fastener that flies off can cause serious injury. → Always use a safety clip or retainer to prevent attachments from being ejected during tool operation.
- A hose that becomes disconnected while still under high pressure can whip around wildly and strike workers in the area. → Ensure all hose connections are secured by positive locking devices to prevent accidental disconnection during use.
- Electrical contacts within the air compressor motor or pressure switch can spark, creating a risk for fire or explosion. → Operate air compressors in a well-ventilated area away from combustible materials.
- Overheating can occur when ventilation openings on the air compressor are blocked. → Don't place objects on or against the air compressor that could restrict airflow.

OSHA 1910.242(b) *Compressed air used for cleaning. Compressed air shall not be used for cleaning purposes except where reduced to less than 30 p.s.i and then only with effective chip guarding and personal protective equipment.*

- Pneumatic tools can be noisy so it is important to wear **hearing protection** when using air powered tools or when working in the area where they are used regularly.
- **Eye protection** is required, and **head and face protection** is recommended for employees working with pneumatic tools.
- **Gloves** should be worn when using pneumatic tools to protect your hands.
- **Dust masks** should be used when using tools that create dust and fumes in the work area that may be hazardous.
- If pneumatic tools are used in areas where others are working consider adding **screens or shields** to protect other employees from flying fragments, chips, dust and excessive noise.

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