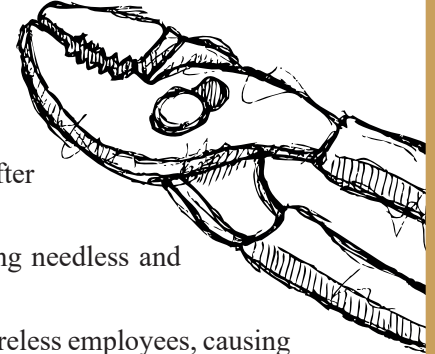


Hand Tool Safety

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Often, hand tools such as hammers, wrenches, chisels, pliers and screwdrivers are underrated as sources of potential danger. Many hand tools may look harmless, but they are the cause of numerous injuries. An estimated 8 percent of all workplace compensable injuries are caused by incidents associated with hand tools. These injuries can be serious, including loss of fingers or eyesight.

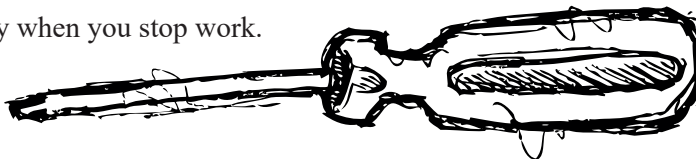
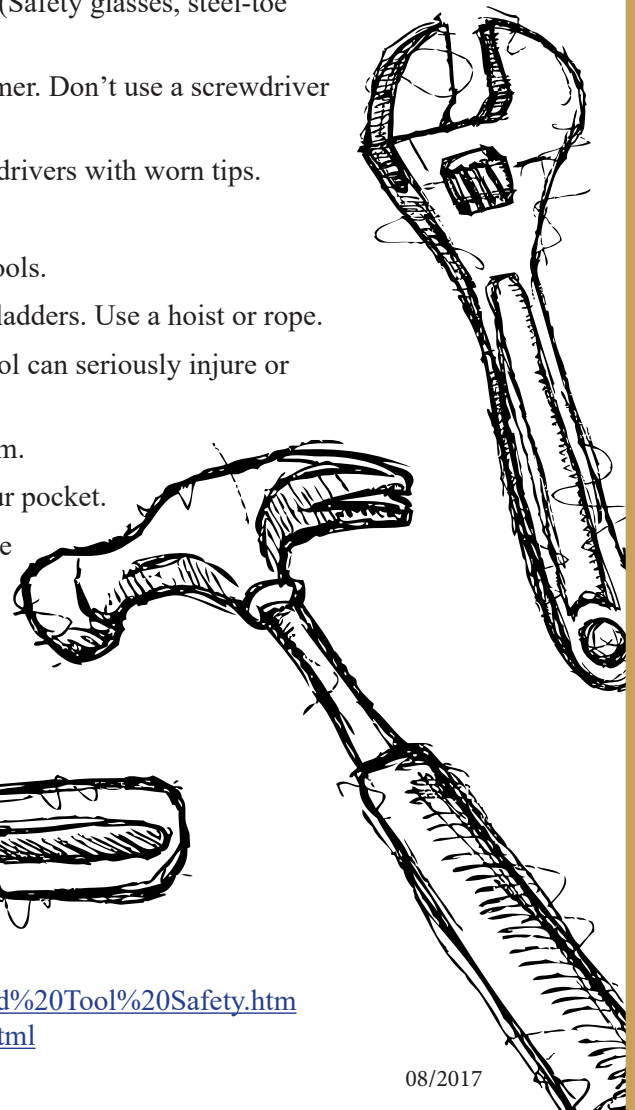


Common Injuries Caused by the Use of Hand Tools:

- Cuts, abrasions, amputations and punctures.
- Repetitive motion injuries. Using the same tool in the same way all day long, day after day, can stress human muscles and ligaments.
- Eye injuries. Flying chips of wood or metal are a common hazard, often causing needless and permanent blindness.
- Broken bones and bruises. Tools can slip, fall from heights or even be thrown by careless employees, causing severe injuries.

Safety Procedures to Avoid Injury:

- ALWAYS WEAR PERSONAL PROTECTIVE EQUIPMENT (PPE)
- Use the right personal protective equipment (PPE) for the job. (Safety glasses, steel-toe shoes, gloves, etc.)
- Use the right tool for the job. Don't use your wrench as a hammer. Don't use a screwdriver as a chisel, etc.
- Don't use broken or damaged tools, dull cutting tools or screwdrivers with worn tips.
- Cut in a direction away from your body.
- Make sure your grip and footing are secure when using large tools.
- Carry tools securely in a tool belt or box. Don't carry tools up ladders. Use a hoist or rope.
- Keep close track of tools when working at heights. A falling tool can seriously injure or even kill a co-worker.
- Pass a tool to another person by the handle; never toss it to them.
- Never carry sharp or pointed tools such as a screwdriver in your pocket.
- Select ergonomic tools for your work task when movements are repetitive and forceful.
- Be on the lookout for signs of repetitive stress. Early detection might prevent a serious injury.
- Always keep your tools in top condition. A dull blade or blunt point can lead to injury.
- Store tools properly when you stop work.



Sources: <http://www.toolboxtopics.com/Gen%20Industry/Hand%20Tool%20Safety.htm>
<https://www.osha.gov/SLTC/handpowertools/index.html>
<https://www.grainger.com/content/qt-188-tool-safety/>