



Hand, Foot & Miscellaneous Tools – Safety Tips

Prior to use, always inspect hand tools for defects or damage e.g., splintered, loose, bent, or cracked tool handles, mushroomed tool heads, sprung tool joints, worn tool teeth).

- If a tool fails your inspection, remove it from use.
- Wear personal protective equipment (PPE) appropriate for the task and weather conditions, including items such as a hat with brim, long-sleeved shirt, long trousers, gloves, sunglasses, closed-toed shoes, and sunscreen.
- Use eye protection when the tool produces flying, crumbling, chipping, sparking, or splintering debris.
- Consume an adequate amount of water for the weather conditions.
- When working in warm weather, take frequent breaks in the shade.
- When cutting, always cut away from the body.
- Always use the proper tool for the job.
- Follow all product label instructions, including those for PPE use, when using a hand applicator to apply pesticides or fertilizers.
- Rotate tasks frequently to reduce the potential for repetitive motion injuries.
- Stand with your back straight when using long-handled tools such as hoes, rakes, and shovels.
- Protect your back when picking up heavy items by maintaining a straight back, bending your knees, firmly grasping the object, and slowly lifting with your legs.
- Avoid using tools above your shoulder height.
- Use an insect repellent when biting or stinging insects are present in the task environment
- Do not horseplay with tools.
- Digging with your bare hands can result injuries such as cuts, punctures, or insect bites. Accordingly, dig with proper tool and gloves instead of using your bare hands.

Using a bow saw

1. Make sure that the wood is held firmly - if you must use your hand for this, keep it well away from the blade.
2. Start slowly, pulling the blade backward towards you until the blade is well into the wood. Then push and pull in a steady rhythm using the whole length of the blade.
3. Always mask the saw after use - either use a plastic 'clip-on' mask or tie a length of sacking around the blade.