

Hand and Power Tools

About 10 minutes to deliver

Inspect it, use it for what it is for, keep the guard on — and why a damaged cord is a tool you stop using today.

Most tool injuries are not exotic. A guard was removed, a cord was damaged, a blade was dull, or the tool was being used for something it was not made for.

BEFORE YOU PICK IT UP

- Look at it. Cracked housing, loose handle, damaged cord, missing guard. Any of those and it is tagged and out of service, not "fine for one cut".
- Mushroomed heads get dressed or scrapped. The mushroom on a chisel or star drill is spalling steel that comes off at eye height.
- Sharp beats dull. A dull blade needs force, and force is what makes a tool skip out of the cut and into your hand.
- The right tool. A wrench is not a hammer, a screwdriver is not a pry bar or a chisel, and a knife is not a screwdriver.

GUARDS AND CORDS

- The guard stays on. Every removed guard was removed by someone in a hurry who had done the job a hundred times. Grinder guards in particular — a disc that bursts at 10,000 rpm goes somewhere, and the guard decides where.
- Damaged cords are done. Nicked insulation, exposed conductor, missing ground pin. Tape is not a repair.
- GFCI on every cord tool outdoors or in damp conditions. Test it.
- Do not carry a tool by its cord or yank the cord to unplug it.

USING IT

- Both hands where the tool expects them, body out of the line the tool will travel if it kicks.
- Secure the work. A clamp or a vice does not flinch. A hand holding the piece does.
- Eyes always. Face shield over glasses for grinding, cutting or chipping.
- Let it stop before you set it down. A coasting blade wanders.

ASK THE CREW

- Is there a tool on this site right now with a missing guard or a damaged cord?
- Where is the tag-out tape kept, and does everyone know?
- What are people using as a hammer that is not a hammer?

29 CFR 1926.300 · 29 CFR 1926.301 · 29 CFR 1926.302

This is a toolbox talk, not a course. It is general awareness on one topic — not site-specific, not a hazard assessment, and not a substitute for assessment of your workplace by a competent person, your written programs, or manufacturers' instructions. It does not by itself satisfy any OSHA training requirement. Regulations change; verify against the current standard. Whoever delivers it is responsible for deciding it is suitable and sufficient for the work. Where a talk covers first aid, resuscitation, or mental health it is general safety information, not medical advice, not a substitute for professional medical care or certified emergency-response training, and it confers no certification — in an emergency, call 911. Free to print and use, as is, with no warranty of any kind. Migna Safety Solutions · training.mignasafetysolutions.com

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ATTENDANCE RECORD

Hand and Power Tools

About 10 minutes to deliver · 29 CFR 1926.300 · 29 CFR 1926.301 · 29 CFR 1926.302

Date

Job / site

Delivered by

Company

#	Print name	Signature	Date
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I delivered this talk and determined it was suitable for this crew and this work.

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