



POWER TOOLS

Power tools can be dangerous. If poorly maintained or used incorrectly or carelessly, they can cause serious injury or death.

Injuries from handheld power tools have been caused by:

- Using damaged or faulty equipment.
- Using equipment that is unguarded.
- Using tools incorrectly or carelessly.
- Using tools that are poorly designed or made.
- Ignoring electrical hazards.

All tools should be adequately maintained, and training carried out in the operation of any tool, but everyone has the responsibility to:

- Check that the tool has been regularly inspected and tested and tagged by an electrician every three months.
- Use earth leakage devices to protect against electric shock.
- Use the right tool for the job.
- Following the correct operating procedures.
- Reporting any tools that are unsafe or malfunctioning.
- Check that extension cords are in good repair and are run on hangers or stands to keep aisle ways and passages clear.
- Switch off and unplug tools when not in use.
- Care is taken with extension cords used outdoors or where water may be present.
- The extension socket and plug are protected to prevent water getting in.
- Store tools safely.
- Keep the cutting edges sharp.
- Carry tools carefully.
- Not use tools that are unguarded.
- Making cuts away from the body.
- Wearing P.P.E when it's needed.

Questions:

1. Can you name three causes of injuries associated with power tools?

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2. How often do power tools have to be tested and tagged?

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3. How can we stop people tripping over leads in passageways and aisle-ways?

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4. Is it important to keep cutting edges sharp?

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5. What should be worn when using power tools?

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