

Hand & Power Tools

We use hand and hand power tools on almost all jobs. This high level of comfort and use can lead to an oversight of the hazards that come with that use. The greatest hazards posed by hand tools are those that result from misuse, abuse or poor maintenance.

Hand and Power Tool Hazards:

- Broken, cracked or loose handles.
- Using a screwdriver for a chisel.
- Taped extension cords that should be replaced.
- Dull saw blades or drill bits.
- Using a crescent wrench instead a socket wrench.
- Power tool housing taped together.
- Tools hanging from the power cord from elevated surfaces (scaffolds, ladders, etc.).
- Electrical "gang boxes" with missing receptacle cover plates.
- Use of household surge protectors.
- Hoses repaired with tape.
- Motors wired to mounting plates or stands.

Basic Guidelines for Portable Tools

- Never carry or suspend power tools by the power cord.
- Never yank a cord or hose to disconnect the tool from the power source.
- Make sure a ground prong is present.
- Keep cords and hoses away from heat and sharp edges.
- Secure work with clamps.
- Disconnect tools when they not being used.
- Maintain good footing and proper balance when operating tools.
- Inspect all tools on a regular basis in accordance with the manufacturers' recommendations. Repair any defects found before use or remove from the tool from service.
- Do not remove or inactivate guards.

SAFETY - FIRST, FOREMOST AND FOREVER

This document is provided for information purposes only. It is not intended to be a substitute for individual legal counsel or advice on issues discussed within. To request that a Loss Control Consultant survey your jobsite, contact us at 225.387.0286 or toll free at 1.877.LHBASIF (542.2743).