

Power Tool Safety Hints

Working safely with power tools

The following hints should form part of your routine working habits.

- Ensure that all the tool's guards are in place and working properly.
- Use a hauling line to lift or lower power tools from a scaffold or elevated work area. Do **not** lift the tool by the lead or cord.
- Disconnect all types of power tools from the power source before making adjustments or changing cutters and blades.
- Balance yourself on both feet before operating any power tool. Do **not** over-reach.
- Use the tool for the job it was designed for.
- Lay tools down only after they have stopped rotating or guards have covered the cutting edges.
- Keep the work area clear of obstructions.
- Pile off-cuts out of the way to prevent tripping.
- Wear firm fitting clothing while using power tools. Loose sleeves, belts or ties are easily caught in rotary tools.
- Wear goggles or safety glasses and face shield to protect eyes whenever working with tools.
- Wear ear muffs to protect your hearing from permanent damage, particularly if you are using any power tool for an extended time.
- Tie back long hair or wear a close-fitting hat.
- Always wear rubber-soled shoes or boots when using portable electric tools.
- Keep tools fitted with base plates in contact with the work surface while cutting.
- Freehand-elevated cutting should be avoided.
- Do **not** use locking pins on trigger-type switches to lock tools on, except where the tool is firmly mounted on a stationary stand or unit.
- Check the tightness of screws and fixtures periodically to prevent them working loose and becoming a hazard.

Note: In wet weather take these extra precautions.

- Dry your hands before picking up the tool.
- Ensure that the tool is perfectly dry and has not been left in the rain.
- Stand on dry timber or heavy material, such as a hessian bag, when working on damp or muddy ground.
- Keep leads and electrical connections clear of damp ground.
- Wear rubber soled shoes or boots.