Tool Safety

Here are some simple rooms to ensure you use tools safely during bump-in and bumo-out:

Is the tool in good condition?

Is it the right size for the job?

Is it in the proper working condition?

Every tool was designed to do a certain job – are you using the correct tool? For example, don’t use a screwdriver as a chisel!

Keep your tools in good condition: clean, oiled, sharp and not abused.

Worn tools are dangerous. For example, an adjustable wrench will slip if its jaws are sprung, ring spanners will slip if the ’teeth’ are worn and hammer heads fly off loose handles.



*Mushroomed head of a chisel*

Tools that are subjected to impact (e.g. chisels, punches, hammer heads, etc.) tend to ‘mushroom’ (Keep them dressed (sharpened) to avoid flying spalls.

Do not force tools beyond their capacity.

Secure your work in a vice whenever possible. Never hold small work in your hand when using a screwdriver.

Chisels, screwdrivers or other pointed tools should never be carried in clothing pockets. Use tool belts designed for carrying tools.

Screwdriver points should not be badly worn, and handles should be in good condition. Use the proper size and type of screwdriver for the job.

Hammers should have heads ground properly and should not have broken claws or handles.

Check for loose handles. Always use the proper size and weight for the job.

Cutting tools should be kept sharp to ensure good smooth cutting. Always use proper handles.

Wrenches, if adjustable, must work freely and adjust properly. Gripping teeth or smooth jaws should not be worn. Always use the proper size for the job.

Always wear the personal protection equipment (PPE) required for the job. Protect your eyes, hands, ears and other body parts. Keep clothing out of your work.