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.