



Proper Tool Maintenance

It's important for a tool to be properly maintained and cared for to ensure it is safe to use when needed to complete a task. This safety bulletin addresses the issue of maintaining and caring of the tools we use.

- Always store tools in its proper place. That proper place is where the tool will be protected from damage.
- Make sure that if any oil, grease, chemical gets on the tool, that the tool is wiped off and cleaned prior to storing it. This will prevent other tools from getting coated with these substances rendering them not ready to use. Also, depending on the chemical, it may damage the tool.
- Some tools need additional maintenance such as sharpening or dressing that makes it safe to use.
- Check tool handles for defects such as burrs, splinters, missing/loose grips
- Inspecting the tools on a regular basis will help reduce the chance of someone using an unsafe tool.





It does not take that much more time to inspect, clean, maintain, and store tools properly. In fact it will save time, since when you are ready to start the task; the correct tool is also ready for service. Just think how hard it would be to complete your task if half the tools were either broken or in such poor condition that you had to take time to repair it or clean it prior to use. Maintain your tools correctly so they are ready for your assigned tasks. Even with proper maintenance, at some point, tools just need to be replaced.

Remember: "No task is so important that it be done at the risk of safety."