

Hand-Held Power Tools

Prepare: Quiet location? No distractions? Talk aids ready? **Reason:**

Electrical tools face harsh conditions on site – when misused they get damaged and dangerous.

Why: In one year there were 194 reported incidents of electric shock involving portable electric tools.

Outline: This talk will cover before use checks, use of electric tools and hazards.



Before Use Checks

- Make sure the casing is not damaged – if it is, do not use it.
- Make sure that all cables, plugs or connectors are sound and not damaged.
- Use tools on correct power supply as instructed on maker's label. Only 110 volt tools are permitted on site.
- Ensure the tool is properly earthed unless it is an approved type that does not require earthing.
- Ensure the cable is long enough to reach your work without straining it.

Q: What are two things you should check before using a portable electric tool?

Use of Hand-held Power Tools

- Power tools should only be used for their designed purpose.
- Ensure switches are working correctly before connecting to the power supply.
- Wear eye protection if there is any risk to your eyes.
- Disconnect tools when not in use.
- Power tools should be regularly inspected and maintained by a competent electrician.

Q: When drilling, when should you wear eye protection?

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Hand-Held Power Tools

Hazards

- Keep power cables off the floor. They may get damaged or trip somebody up.
- Electrical tools often present a noise hazard – wear ear protection if necessary.
- Avoid standing on a damp or wet surface when using electrical equipment. Keep equipment clean and dry.
- Never connect a portable electric tool to a lighting socket.
- Do not use blunt, worn or damaged bits and accessories.
- Power tools which have become wet should be allowed to dry then checked by a competent person for electrical safety before being re-used.

Q: What are three potential hazards when using portable electric tools?

Do you have any questions for me?

Questions for you:

Q: What voltage tools should be used on site?

Q: Who should inspect and maintain portable electric tools?

REMEMBER:

**LOOK AFTER POWER TOOLS AND THEY WILL
LOOK AFTER YOU**

Sources

<https://www.hse.gov.uk/statistics/pdf/fatalinjuries.pdf>

<https://www.hse.gov.uk/statistics/industry/construction.pdf>

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