

Safe Use of Power Tools

The farmstead is a place where many electric hand and power tools are used to make farming easier. Tools allow us to accomplish more work easier and few of us would want to give them up. Just think about the inconvenience when we lose power in a storm and “have to make due” without the benefit of electricity.

Unfortunately, these wonderful aides can also be dangerous to those using them and those in proximity if used improperly.

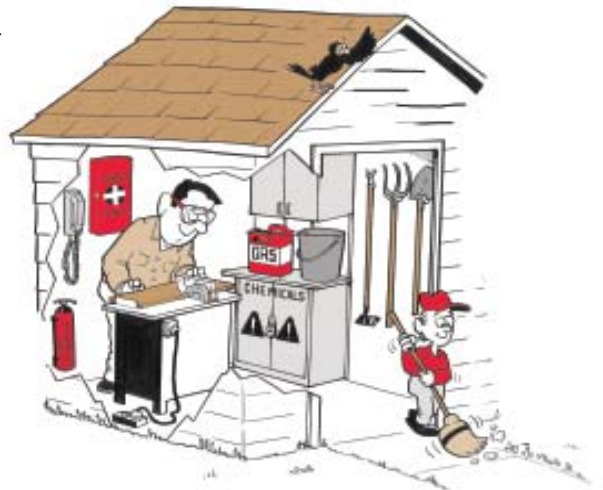
All tools pose some amount of danger but electric hand tools have the added danger of speed, power, and electrical currents that can shock and even kill when not used properly.

Teaching proper use of hand tools and the precautions that are necessary for their safe use is an excellent way to teach safety before moving on to safe power tool use. Proper use of hammers, screwdrivers, and shovels teach children respect before they move on to using potentially more dangerous items like power tools.

You can avoid accidents and health problems if you:

- Pick the right tool for the job.
- Replace or repair damaged tools.
- Make sure cords are in good repair when using electrical tools.
- Wear personal protective equipment such as ear plugs when operating loud equipment, and dust masks where there is dust from sawing, drilling, or sweeping.
- Always wear safety goggles when using electrical hand tools.
- Make sure all shields are in good shape to protect from flying debris and moving parts.
- Make sure the area around tools is kept free from clutter to prevent falls.

Remember tools can be a real help when working on the farm. They can also be very harmful if not used with respect. Train young workers to do the same.



Farm Safety



Just Kids