

What?



- A power tool is a machine powered by an electric motor, compressed air motor or internal combustion engine, or propelled directly by fuel or other materials.
- Power tools are either *fixed*, such as turning lathes, band saws or pedestal drills where the work is taken to the machine, or *portable*, such as chipping hammers, hand held drills etc. where the tool is taken to the work.

Why?

- Power tools by their very nature harness power and therefore if used incorrectly can inflict serious injury. They can also be noisy and vibrate, and when operated over a long period can cause noise induced hearing loss or hand-arm vibration syndrome if appropriate precautions are not taken.
- The greatest risks posed by power tools result from misuse and improper maintenance. Most tools come with safeguards such as adjustable guards, screens and safe handholds and it is extremely important to check these are in place and working properly before starting the tool.



Do ✓

- ✓ Wear the correct PPE (e.g. eye protection)
- ✓ Ensure the tool is inspected, tested, and in good working order before use, check the battery and make sure it's charged
- ✓ Make sure drill bits are securely attached
- ✓ Only use the tool for its intended purpose
- ✓ Get a good grip and stance before use
- ✓ Take regular breaks to minimise the chance of hand-arm vibration syndrome
- ✓ Regularly check that the drill bit hasn't worked loose during drilling
- ✓ Ensure the tool is cleaned after use

Don't ✗

- ✗ Don't leave cables where people can trip over them
- ✗ Don't use in areas with flammable vapours present (unless they are designed for that purpose)
- ✗ Don't adjust the tool without first disconnecting from the power source
- ✗ Don't use damaged or defective tools
- ✗ Don't come up behind the operator whilst they are using power tools; consider using a 'Spotter' – a person to check for danger

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