

TOOLBOX TALK

24. HAMMERS

What?

- A claw hammer is primarily used for driving nails into, or pulling nails from an object.
- Club or lump hammers are used for hitting cold chisels to break masonry or simply to break things up.
- A walling hammer is used in dry stone walling for dressing stones.
- Sledge hammers are heavy with a long handle, used for breaking up rocks and concrete.
- A fencing mell is made of cast steel and is used for driving wooden posts into the ground.

Why?

 It is important to cleanly hit the object you intended to and that any fragments from where the strike is made are contained safely, or protected against.



Do **√**

- Always wear protective goggles when using hammers
- Be very vigilant of other people when using mells and sledge hammers
- Use a stob twister to hold a post in place rather than getting someone to hold it
- Always use the head of the hammer to strike with, not the side
- Always use the right hammer for the job you are undertaking; It makes the task easier and will help to avoid possible damage to the hammer, yourself and the project that you are working on

Don't X

- Don't leave hammers on walls or lying around
- Don't overstrain your back when bringing the sledge hammer or mell down; ensure the tool does all the work
- Don't use a claw hammer to remove very large nails from wood use a wrecking bar (or 'jemmy') instead
- Don't use a fencing mell for hitting metal or stone as the head will break into pieces; only use it on wood
- Don't use gloves



Document Name	TBT Hammers	Document No.	OC/HS/TBT 24
Document Owner	David Shaftoe	Date of Issue	07.06.20
Related TBTs	Boardwalks; Dry Stone Walling; Eye Protection; Fencing & Gates	Version No.	1