



Refractories | Engineering | Construction

# Preventing Pneumatic Tool Accidents

Your Top 10 Safety Tips

## HOW TO SAFELY USE PNEUMATIC TOOLS

Pneumatic tools are handy since they're often lighter and more compact than their electric-powered or gas-powered counterparts. However, the powerful compressed air that makes them so convenient also makes them dangerous. To prevent injuries and keep everyone on the jobsite safe, incorporate the Top 10 Safety Tips when using grinders, nailers, buffers, staple guns and other pneumatic tools.

## YOUR TOP 10 SAFETY TIPS

- 1 Wear the appropriate PPE including safety glasses, a face shield, head protection, gloves and safety boots to protect against flying objects
- 2 Pneumatic tools can exceed permissible exposure limits (PEL), so use hearing protection like earplugs, earmuffs or hearing bands
- 3 A safety clip or retainer must be installed to prevent attachments, such as chisels on a chipping hammer, from being ejected during tool operation
- 4 Avoid tripping hazards by paying close attention to the location of air hoses and placing them out of the way when not in use
- 5 A relief type air coupler is required to allow compressed air in the tool to be relieved when disconnected to reduce the risk of accidental discharge
- 6 Set up screens or shields to protect people nearby from fragments, nails, sawdust, and wood chips that can get kicked up or ricochet off objects
- 7 Install a safety excess flow valve to hoses over ½ inch in diameter to reduce pressure if the hose fails and prevent a whipping hazard
- 8 Never point a pneumatic tool at yourself or others or use the tool in a way it was not designed for by the manufacturer
- 9 Check to ensure that the manufacturer's safe operating pressures for hoses, pipes, valves, filters, and other fittings are not exceeded
- 10 Vibration, awkward postures, and forceful and repeated exertions may occur when using pneumatic tools, so address ergonomic hazards to prevent repetitive stress injuries

**BONUS TIP** Hoses should be regularly inspected for kinks, holes or cracks and replaced on a 2-3 year schedule

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INJURIES CAUSED ANNUALLY  
BY PNEUMATIC NAILGUNS

40PSI

MINIMUM AIR PRESSURE  
NEEDED TO PENETRATE SKIN

27%

POWER TOOLS THAT USE  
COMPRESSED AIR



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