

SAFE WORK PROCEDURES AIR-POWERED TOOLS



SPECIAL INSTRUCTIONS:

1. Compressed air is hazardous, and persons using air-powered tools must follow all safety precautions.
2. Eye protection should be worn at all times when using compressed air powered tools and equipment.
3. General precautions for the use of specific power tools must be observed when using air-powered tools.

Sequence	Identified hazards	Key processes to be followed	Precautions / PPE required
1. Pre-operation checks	Failure of tool in use Air leaks Moving objects	Inspect casings and bodies for cracks, damage, loose or missing screws, bolts and nuts. Inspect air hoses for cuts, cracks, kinks, and for worn or loose fittings. An air hose which has broken free from a tool will whip and flail, and can cause physical injury.	Do not use faulty equipment. Check all controls for smooth and correct operation. Ensure that air hose connectors are not loose or worn.
2. Air supply	Air entering bloodstream	Check oil and water filters before starting work, and drain when necessary. Ensure that oilers have sufficient oil of correct type for lubrication of the tool (check manufacturer's instructions before use).	Keep hands clear of stream of exhausted air and water.
3. Operation	Flying particles Noise Vibration	Exhaust air can blow dust, grit and other particles into air. Air powered tools will generate hazardous noise levels. High vibration levels may be experienced when using pneumatic tools such as jackhammers, percussion drills, descalers, vibrators, etc.	Wear eye protection . Wear hearing protection . Wear heavy-duty leather gloves or high-pile cotton gloves .
4. Following use	Flying objects	Shut down air cocks and exhaust air before disconnecting hoses or tools. Coil up hoses and store in a safe location to prevent damage to hose or connectors. Store tools in a clean safe area to protect from damage.	Do not expose skin to compressed air. Provide safe storage for hoses and tools.

PRECAUTIONS:

1. The following precautions must be observed when using air-powered tools.
2. Suitable safety and warning signs as indicated should be posted in areas where air-powered tools are used.

