

Toolbox - Knife safety training

Useful talk for supervisors to ensure safety.



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THE SAFE USE OF KNIVES

1. Always select the correct knife for the task.
2. Knives should be kept sharp and have handles that can be properly held.
3. When using a knife, use a firm grip, try to use even pressure for cutting, cut downwards and avoid cutting towards the body.
4. Never try to catch a falling knife.
5. Knives should not be left lying around on worktops and tables. They should not be placed unprotected in cupboards or drawers, nor left in washing up water. They should always be stored in suitable sheaths or racks.
6. Cutting blocks, tables and boards should be firm, smooth and clean.
7. There should always be enough room so that a person using a knife is not in danger of being bumped by another person, or placing another person at risk.
8. Never walk around with a knife in your hand, unless the blade is covered.

Safe use of knives.

Many tasks performed in the Warehouse and onsite do require the use of knives. The handling and using knives is inherently dangerous and it is important that all staff members need to know how to use, handle and store knives in a safe manner. The intent of this toolbox training module is to inform warehouse staff members of best practices.



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Safe use of knives.



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Knife Choice



- Choose the appropriate knife for the job.
- Use a scalpel or X-ACTO knife for cutting thin, easy to cut materials.
- Use a safety utility knife for cutting thick, difficult to cut materials.

Safe use of knives.

- Use caution when extending or retracting a blade, changing a blade or removing a safety cap.
- Always keep the blade clean.
- Always keep the knife dry.
- Only use sharp blades (a sharp blade requires less force and is less likely to slip).
- Be sure that the blade is properly seated and secure and that the knife is properly closed.

Knife/Blade Care



Safe use of knives.

Personal Protective Equipment PPE



- Always wear a cut resistant glove on your free hand.
- Gloves made of Kevlar or stainless-steel mesh are appropriate for work in laboratories and workrooms.

Safe use of knives.

Making a Cut

- Maintain a safe distance between you and others working near you.
- Keep your work surface clean and smooth.
- Be certain the item being cut is held securely.
- Hold the knife with a firm grip to avoid slips.
- Always keep your free hand, and other body parts, away from the line of the cut.
- Always pull a knife when making a cut.



Safe use of knives.

Cutting Thick Material



When cutting through thick material, be patient – make several passes, cutting a little deeper each time.

Safe use of knives.

Storing Knives/Blades

- Store loose blades in their original packages.
- Store knives with their blades retracted, removed or covered/guarded.
- Store knives and blades in a designated storage container with a secure lid.



Safe use of knives.

Disposal of Used Blades



- Dispose of used blades in an approved sharps disposal container.
- Never place blades in the trash.

Safe use of knives.

- Always take injuries seriously, even a minor cut can become infected.
- Always report injuries to your supervisor immediately!
- In the event of a serious injury, call **999**.

Injuries



Safe use of knives.

Knife Handling Don'ts

- Never carry a knife in your pocket.
- Never use a knife to pry something.
- Never use a knife as a screwdriver.
- Never use a knife to punch holes.
- Never try to catch a falling knife.
- Never carry a knife around unless the blade is retracted or capped.
- Never push a knife through material (the blade can wedge and break).
- Never bend or apply side loads to blades.
- Never leave a blade extended or uncapped when not in use.

Safe use of knives.

Best Practices Review

- Choose the appropriate knife for the job.
- Keep the blade clean.
- Keep the knife dry.
- Only use sharp blades (a sharp blade requires less force and is less likely to slip).
- Be sure that blades are properly seated and that knives are properly closed.
- Be certain the item being cut is held securely.
- Hold the knife with a firm grip to avoid slips.
- Maintain a safe distance between you and people working near you.
- Replace X-ACTO knife safety caps or retract blade when done with task.
- Use caution when extending or retracting a blade, changing a blade or removing a safety cap.

Safe use of knives.

Best Practices Review

- Keep your work surface clean and smooth.
- Always keep your free hand, and other body parts, away from the line of the cut.
- Always wear a cut resistant glove on your free hand.
- Always pull a knife.
- When cutting through thick material, be patient - make several passes, cutting a little deeper each time.
- Dispose of used blades in an approved sharps disposal container – NEVER IN THE GENERAL TRASH.
- Always report an injury to your supervisor.

Safe use of knives.

- You have been required to complete this Toolbox training module -
 - because your job duties include the use of knives.
 - remember that knives are inherently dangerous and that
 - you may become seriously injured due to using a knife
 - improperly. Always make certain that your knife is in good repair and that you follow all the previously mentioned in the safety rules.

Safe use of knives.

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