



Safety Tip of the Week

Your Safety Is Our Business®

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Utility Knife Safety

There's one hand tool that demands your respect over many others in the workplace, a tool that can cut you to the bone in an instant... the utility knife.

In fact, nearly one-third of all injuries attributed to manual workshop tools in the US involve knives with retractable blades.

Accidents involving utility knives occur for the following reasons:



- Drawing the knife towards you instead of away from your body;
- Working with a dull blade that requires more pressure, increasing the potential for injury;
- Trying to cut more than the knife can handle;
- Improperly storing the knife with the blade extended;
- Failing to wear personal protective equipment; or
- Neglecting to inspect the tool before use.

Safety precautions to keep in mind when using utility knives:

- Wear safety glasses to protect your eyes in case a blade breaks.
- Always use a sharp blade.
- Wear metal mesh gloves to protect your hands.
- Hand a utility knife to a co-worker with the handle first.
- Consider using self-retracting blades.
- Ensure the blades are properly positioned in the handle before use.
- Keep extremities out of the cutting path.
- Don't apply too much pressure on the blade.
- Follow manufacturer's instructions when changing blades. Don't use utility knives to pry objects loose.
- Dispose of dull or broken blades in a puncture-resistant container.



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As many as one-third of all manual tool injuries have been attributed to utility knives like box cutters. It only takes a moment of inattention for a blade to slip and an employee to be injured.

Unsafe acts...will keep you in stitches!!



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