

Knife Safety Toolbox Talk

Using a Knife Safely

The most common concern working with knives is an injury, such as a cut (laceration or puncture) or an amputation.



Proper Use of Knives:

- Keep knives sharp.
 - A sharp knife makes cutting easier and reduces the risk of applying unsafe pressure while cutting.
- Be aware of the blade location at all times.
- Only use a knife for its intended purpose and the correct size for the task.
 - A knife should not be used as a pry bar, can opener, scraper, screwdriver, etc.
- Always cut away from yourself, ensuring no body parts are in the cutting path.
- Carry the knife pointed down and away from others.
- Place the item to be cut on a stable surface, securing the item with a holding device or with a protected hand.
- Use protective clothing such as cut resistant gloves, when applicable.
 - Examples: Cleaning knives and machines
- Keep the work area clean.
- Any materials on the floor could create a slip hazard.



Knife Handling Safety Tips:

- Seek guidance and training on safe use practices.
- Take your time when cutting.
- Avoid using excessive pressure when cutting.
- Let the knife fall, then pick it up.
 - Do not try to catch it.
- Stop cutting if you need to focus on something else.
- Do not put a knife in a sink full of soapy water.
 - Wash the knife immediately after use.



