

Hand and power tools: inspect before starting

Talk 09 of 52 | Week 9 | Daily jobsite safety

Leader: adapt this talk to today's electrical work and site procedures. See the educational-use and liability notice on page 2.

START THE CONVERSATION

A missing guard or damaged accessory can make an ordinary cut dangerous. An inspection is useful only if defective equipment is actually taken out of use.

KEY TALKING POINTS

1. Use the tool and accessory intended for the job, following the manufacturer's instructions. Check for damage, loose parts, and missing guards.
2. Keep guards and safety devices in place. Do not bypass a switch or hold a guard out of the way.
3. Control the workpiece and keep others out of the path of chips, sparks, and moving parts. Wear the protective equipment selected for the hazards.
4. Disconnect the energy source as instructed before changing accessories or making adjustments. Report defects and use the employer's removal-from-service procedure.
5. Electrical job example: a crew changes between cutting conduit, drilling supports, and preparing enclosures. Discuss the correct tool and accessory for each step rather than treating one setup as suitable for every material. Make sure the person using the tool understands the instructions and the approved work method.
6. Plan how the workpiece will be supported before the cut starts. Consider where offcuts, chips, or sparks may travel and whether someone is working on the opposite side. If the setup cannot control the material or protect nearby workers, stop and arrange a better location or method.
7. Ask who checks shared tools when they move between workers. Identify how damaged equipment is marked and separated, and who can authorize repair or return to service. Finish with a practical demonstration on a disconnected tool: locate the guard, identify the accessory, and explain what would cause the user to reject it.

ASK THE CREW

1. What checks apply to the tools we will use?
2. Where do defective tools go?

BEFORE WORK STARTS

Inspect one tool together and identify its required guard, accessory, and protective equipment.

OSHA SOURCES / FURTHER READING

OSHA 1926.300: Tool safety requirements

Attendance & action record

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Date: _____ Leader: _____

Company / jobsite: _____

Site hazards and controls discussed:

Follow-up action / responsible person / due date:

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Participant name	Signature / acknowledgment

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