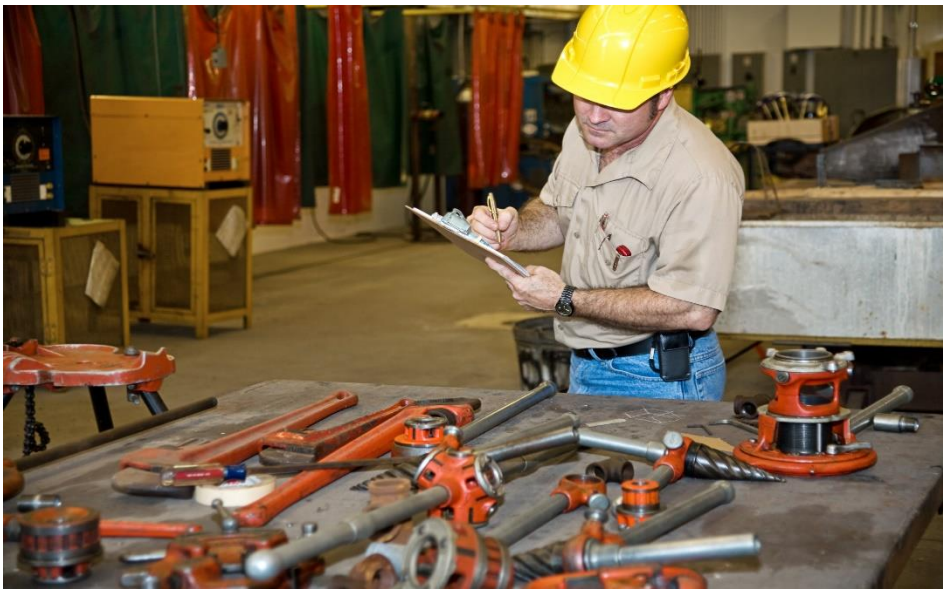


Hand Tool Inspections: Stay Safe, Stay Sharp

Hand tools are a part of every job site — and unfortunately, so are the injuries that come from using them. Many of these injuries happen because tools are used incorrectly, but just as many are caused by **damaged or worn-out tools** that should've been taken out of service.



Today's safety talk focuses on **manual hand tools** — not electric or pneumatic — such as **hammers, screwdrivers, chisels, and wrenches**. These are common tools, but they can cause serious injuries if they're not in good shape.

What to Look For: Tool-Specific Inspection Tips

🔧 Hammers

- Check the handle — it should be **free of cracks, chips, or splits**.
- **Taped handles are a red flag** — they usually hide damage and are **not an approved fix**.
- Make sure the hammerhead is securely attached.
- If the **claw is broken**, toss the hammer — it's unsafe.

☐ Screwdrivers

- Inspect the handle for cracks or chips.
- Never use a screwdriver as a chisel — striking it with a hammer can damage both tools.
- If the tip is **worn, bent, or chipped**, replace it. A damaged tip can slip and cause hand injuries.

☐ Chisels

- Look at the **striking end** — if it's starting to "mushroom" (flare out), it needs repair or replacement.
- Mushroomed edges can shatter and send metal flying when struck.

🔧 Wrenches

- Make sure the wrench is **straight and not bent**.
- Check for **worn or chipped jaws** — if the tool can't grip properly, it can slip and cause injury.
- A worn wrench is dangerous — replace it before it fails.

Best Practices for Hand Tool Safety

- ✓ **Keep tools clean** – Dirty tools can slip out of your hands or fail to function properly.
- ✓ **Don't modify tools** – Use them as designed. No bending, welding, or taping them together.
- ✓ **Store tools properly** – Leaving them out increases the risk of loss, theft, or damage.
- ✓ **Use tools correctly** – Misusing tools causes wear and tear and increases your chances of injury.

Final Reminders

A quick inspection before using a hand tool can prevent serious injuries. If a tool is damaged, **tag it, report it, and replace it**. And remember — tools are there to make your job safer and easier, **but only if they're in good condition**.

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