



# Toolbox Talk

## ***Right Tool for the Job***

It is always easier to do a job with the right tool. Not having or not using the proper tool or using a damaged or blunt tool can cause injury, damage and reduce productivity.

- Any cutting tool works best when sharp. A blunted working edge requires greater force to get the desired cut, this force can lead to loss of control. This is as true for a chef's knife as it is for a drill, chisel or saw.
- The quality of a tool not only affects the longevity of the tool but also the safety. Spanners with jaws that spread, hand tools with handles that snap and locking devices that slip all contribute to injuries. Poor quality tools that have failed under pressure can cause crush, cut and muscular injuries with our people.
- Not having the proper tool encourages a work around (alternative method). These are sometimes appropriate, however it can lead to tools, equipment and human body being used in a manner for which they are not designed. This includes using hands as a hammer, legs and back as a jack or a knife as a screwdriver.
- Holding items in the hand and applying a cutting tool or pressure can be disastrous. Securing the item to a work surface is always preferred.
- Keep tools sharp and in good repair. Working parts that need lubrication or adjustment are checked and serviced regularly. As the risk increases, so should the quality of the tool to counter it.

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*The cost of an injury (Medical expenses, management of the injury and loss of productivity) far exceed the cost of appropriate tooling and their maintenance.*

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**Signature**

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