



# WCF Safety Topic: HAND TOOL SAFETY

Hand Tool	Correct Usage	Abuse/Misuse
<b>Nail Hammers</b>	Nail hammers are intended for driving and pulling common, unhardened nails only, and for ripping apart wooden structures. They may be used to strike nail sets with the center of the striking face.	Never strike one hammer with or against another hammer or a hatchet. Never strike nail pullers, steel chisels, or other hardened objects with a nail hammer because the face may chip, possibly resulting in an eye or other serious injury.
<b>Ball Pein Hammers</b>	Ball pein hammers of the proper size are designed for striking chisels and punches, and for riveting, shaping and straightening unhardened metal.  When striking a tool (chisel or punch), the strike face of the hammer should have a diameter at least 3/8 inch larger than the strike face of the tool.	Strike squarely and avoid glancing blows that may cause the edge of the face to chip, possibly resulting in an eye or other serious injury. Never strike with or against the side, or cheek, of any hammer.
<b>Riveting and Setting Hammers</b>	The riveting hammer is designed for driving and spreading rivets on sheet metal work. The setting hammer is designed for forming sharp corners, closing and peining seams and lock edges, and for use by glaziers for inserting glazier points.	Never use these special-purpose hammers for general-purpose work. The square, sharp edges of the setting hammer make it vulnerable to chipping if improperly used. Never strike against other steel tools.
<b>Scaling or Chipping Hammers</b>	Scaling or chipping hammers are popular in iron foundaries and welding shops. They are designed for chipping welds, scale, rust and paint from unhardened metal.	Never use these special-purpose hammers for any but the purposes for which they are designed. Striking concrete or hardened steel objects may cause the blades to chip, possibly resulting in an eye or other serious injury.
<b>Bricklayers' Hammers</b>	Bricklayers' hammers are designed for setting and cutting (splitting) bricks, masonry tile and concrete blocks, and for chipping mortar from bricks.	Never use a brick hammer to strike other steel tools of any type, or to drive hardened nails. The striking face or blade may chip, possibly resulting in an eye or other serious injury.
<b>Soft Face and Non-Ferrous Hammers and Mallets</b>	Soft face hammers are intended for striking blows where steel hammers would mar or damage the surface of the work. Wooden mallets are properly used for striking wood and plastic-handled chisels, gouges, wood pins and small stakes, and to form or shape sheet metal. Rubber and plastic hammers are used for setting stone.	Never use these tools to drive nails or screws or to strike sharp metal objects. Never use a hammer or mallet with a loose or damaged handle.
<b>Magnetic Hammers</b>	Magnetic hammers are light-duty, used for holding and driving only tacks. The tack hammer has a long thin claw for pulling tacks in corners. The heads of the other patterns are designed for starting and driving tacks only - magnetic end for starting, the opposite end for driving.	Never use these hammers for driving anything other than tacks and upholstery nails. Never strike them with or against other steel.

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<b>Blacksmiths' or Engineers' Hammers and Sledges, Double Face</b>	Sledges are designed for general sledging operations in striking wood, metal, concrete or stone. Common uses are drifting heavy timbers and striking spikes, cold chisels, rock, drills and hardened.	Never use a sledge to strike a hammer, sledge or maul. Never use a sledge with a loose or damaged handle.
<b>Woodsplitting' Mauls</b>	Mauls are designed for splitting wood. Also they are used in conjunction with wood splitting wedges by first making a notch with the splitting edge and then driving the wedge with the maul's striking face.	Never use this tool in striking concrete. Never drive one maul, sledge or other striking tool. Never use a maul with a loose or damaged handle.
<b>Axes and Hatchets</b>	The double bit axe is usually used to fell, trim or prune trees and to split and cut wood. It is also used for notching and shaping logs and timbers. The single bit axe, in addition to the above uses, is used to drive wood stakes with the striking face.  Hatchets are used for cutting, splitting, trimming and hewing and driving unhardened nails and stakes with the striking face.	The cutting edges of axes and hatchets are designed for cutting wood and equally soft materials. They should never be struck against metal, stone or concrete. The striking faces of hatchets are properly hardened for driving common nails but should never be used to strike chisels, punches, rock drills or other hardened metal tools, or for striking stone or concrete. Never use an axe as a wedge or a maul. Never strike with the sides.
<b>Cold Chisels</b>	Cold chisels have a cutting edge at one end for cutting, shaping and removing metal softer than the cutting edge itself such as cast iron, wrought iron, steel, bronze, copper, etc. and a strike face on the opposite end.	Never use cold chisels for cutting or splitting stone or concrete. Never use a dull chisel or one with a mushroomed head. Never use a blacksmiths' cold chisel with a loose or damaged handle.
<b>Hot Chisels</b>	Hot chisels are designed for cutting hot steel.	Never use hot chisels for cutting cold metal, stone or concrete. Never use a dull chisel or one with a mushroomed head. Never use a chisel with a loose or damaged handle.
<b>Blacksmiths' Punches</b>	Blacksmiths' round punches are designed for drifting holes, aligning and driving pins. Blacksmiths' backing out punches are designed for backing out bolts, rivets and pins.	Never use a punch with a mushroomed struck face or a chipped or deformed point. Never use a punch with a loose or damaged handle.
<b>All Steel Wood and Ripping Chisels</b>	All-steel wood and ripping chisels are heavy-duty wood cutting tools designed for rough work.	Never use an all-steel chisel with a mushroomed strike face or a chipped or dull cutting edge. Never use on metal.
<b>Hand Punches</b>	Punches are designed to mark metal and other material softer than the point end, drive and remove pin and rivets, and align holes in different sections of material.	Never use a punch with a mushroomed struck face or with a dull, chipped or deformed point.

## Resources

WCF Safety Department  
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**NOTICE:** This guide may make reference to the Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) regulations; however the guide is not legal advice as to compliance with OSHA or other safety laws, codes or regulations. Compliance with OSHA and other safety laws codes or regulations, and maintaining a safe work environment for your employees remains your responsibility. WCF does not undertake to perform the duty of any person to provide for the health or safety of your employees. WCF does not warrant that your workplace is safe or healthful, or that it complies with any laws, regulations, codes or standards.