

TOOLBOX TALK for July 20th, 2026

Carpenter's Training - Portland- July 25th MEWP/Aerial Lift
Ontario- July 29th, Forklift

Hand Protection:

In construction, our hands are everything – they're essential for every task, whether operating power tools, handling materials or doing precision work. Protecting them isn't just a precaution; it's critical. Without the use of our hands, we're in trouble.

Recognizing potential hazards on our jobsites is the first step towards injury prevention. Regular tasks such as metal framing, using chop saws and grinders, carry the risk of cuts and abrasions.

Even a little slip can result in a laceration severe enough to slow us down. Wearing our cut-rated gloves is crucial to reducing hand injuries, likewise when working with metal we must always wear our cut sleeves.

Using tool handles like those on drills, is another way to reduce the chance of injury. If a drill or other tool has a handle, it's important that we use it. Taking handles off tools should only be done when the handle is too long or large to fit in a tight work area. Otherwise, the handle must be in place.

Let's remember how important our hands are and do everything we can to protect them.

Housekeeping:

Housekeeping isn't just about looking good; it's a critical safety practice that prevents trips, falls, and injuries. "Clean as you go" means removing debris and clearing pathways before there is a problem. Properly store materials, and elevate cables when possible, and do a thorough shift-end cleanup. Below are a few reminders:

- **Clear Walkways:** Keep access routes, and stairs free of debris, tools, and stored materials.
- **Designated Waste Areas:** Have dump buggies nearby so debris can be tossed in immediately.
- **Material Storage:** Stack materials neatly. Load carts so they won't tip, place heavier items on the bottom to increase stability, and secure materials so they don't blow away if the wind picks up.
- **Pick Up Screws and Sharp Objects:** Keep work areas safe by picking up sharp objects, screws and screw strips, don't leave them on the floor.
- **Use Sweeping Compound:** Use sweeping compound to trap dust and debris while sweeping and wear a dust mask to avoid inhalation.
- **Manage Cords and Hoses:** Keep power cords, welding leads, and hoses out of heavily trafficked areas. When possible, hang cords overhead, always route them securely. Never run cords over bottom track or other sharp edges to avoid slicing the cords.

Good housekeeping can save us a lot of pain and make our work easier and more efficient.

[Toolbox Talk Submission](#)