

## Knife Safety Reminders

Safety statistics tell us that knives cause more disabling injuries in the workplace than any other hand tool. Tips to reduce the likelihood of a cut or puncture include:

- Use knives ONLY when your hands and the handle of the knife are free of oil, grease, or other wet substances to prevent handles from slipping.
- Cut AWAY from your body whenever possible. If you must cut toward your body, use proper protective equipment (cut resistant aprons, for example).
- Hold materials steady when cutting.
- Mark the area you plan to cut to reduce error.
- Carry knives in a sheath or holder, or use retractable blades if possible.
- Store knives in proper places (NOT benches or floors!).
- Keep knives sharp and use the correct tool for the job. Dull knives require excess force and increase the probability of injury.
- Serrated edges are best to cut cardboard, rope, boxes and bread.
- Straight edges are best for straight cuts.
- Never use a knife that is defective (broken blade, handle, etc.).
- Never use a knife to do another tool's job (i.e. as a screw driver or pry bar).



**If you do cut or puncture yourself, keep the injury clean to prevent infection.**

### SafetyConnection: Knife Safety Reminders

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