

DRILLS

1. Task

Working safely with drills, electric or pneumatic.

2. Hazards

Cut by/struck by injuries, ergonomic – sprain/strain injury, working with dull or broken bits, power cords not in good working condition – electrical hazard, air hoses leaking – compressed air hazards entanglement with gloves.

3. Controls

Pre-Job Safety Assessment (PSA). CSA/ANSI approved equipment and PPE, regular inspection and maintenance of tools by qualified competent trades person.

- ❖ Prior to drilling, nailing, cutting, sawing or fastening into walls, ceilings and floors, check for electrical wires or equipment. (Use x-rays, scans, drawings, site drawings). Special precautions must be taken around electrical vaults and horizontal and vertical duct banks. Sole reliance on as-built drawings may not be adequate.
- ❖ Before using any tool, do a visual inspection to determine if it is in good working condition. Look for cracked housings, broken chucks, frayed electrical cords, worn or broken bits.
- ❖ Use only effectively grounded electrical circuits – inspect power cords for defects and replace if damaged or ground plug missing.
- ❖ Make sure that triggers and guards are working properly and not tampered with or made ineffective.
- ❖ If the tool is defective in any way, tag and take the tool out of service. Have a qualified trades person fix the tool.
- ❖ Look for worn bits. If the bit is dull or worn, this may damage the drill or may cause injury to the worker.
- ❖ Do not push hard on the drill, allow the bit to do the work, if the bit is sharp, it will be easy to drill the hole.
- ❖ Ensure drill is unplugged when changing bits.
- ❖ When drilling overhead, a minimum of safety glasses must be used, a full-face shield is strongly recommended to protect your eyes. Respiratory protection when required, ie. concrete.
- ❖ When using hammer drills, hearing protection must be utilized.
- ❖ Drill from a comfortable well supported position – do not overreach from ladders, or other work platforms while drilling.
- ❖ Choose correct size of drill for the job – do not force a small drill to work beyond its capacity – be careful not to allow larger more powerful drills to jam or bind in material – clear the hole often while drilling.
- ❖ Prevent repetitive strain injury by spelling off with other workers or alternating tasks.
- ❖ When working off scaffolds or swing stages on building exteriors, secure drill by tying off or use a wristband.
- ❖ If wearing gloves, ensure only snug fitting leather gloves are worn to reduce risk of entanglement.