

Portable power tools: pre-use checks

About 5 minutes · Read it out, then ask the questions at the end.

Why it matters. Damaged tools and leads cause shocks, burns and fires. A quick check before use finds most faults.

The hazards

- Damaged casings, cables and plugs
- Missing guards
- Wrong tool or wrong accessory for the job
- Tools past their inspection date

Stay safe

- Check the tool, lead and plug before every use
- Look for cuts, crushed cables, exposed wires, loose plugs and burn marks
- Check the guard is fitted and working
- Check the inspection or test label is in date where the site uses them
- Use 110V tools on site
- Disconnect before changing blades or bits
- Take faulty tools out of use, label them and report them

Ask the team

1. What do you look for on a lead before use?
2. What do you do with a faulty tool?
3. Why disconnect before changing accessories?

The law and guidance

Provision and Use of Work Equipment Regulations 1998; Electricity at Work Regulations 1989.

General guidance to help you give a toolbox talk. It doesn't replace your site's risk assessments, method statements, permits or training. Check it against your own site rules before you give it.

Free toolbox talk from EW Group, 110V site temps specialists. www.ewgroup.co.uk · Bristol 0117 982 0005 · London 020 7476 0001

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Site: _____ Date: _____

Given by: _____ Company: _____

By signing, I confirm I attended this toolbox talk and understood it.

Name (print)	Company	Signature	Time

Keep this record with your site's training and briefing records.