

SAFE WORK PRACTICES

CUTTING TOOLS & SNIPS *Page 1 of 2*

**This information does not take precedence over OH&S. All employees should be familiar with the Saskatchewan Employment Act and the OH&S Regulations.*

General: Many types and sizes of snips and cutting tools are available. Use the correct tool for the job. Wear safety glasses or a face shield and protective gloves when using cutters or snips.

1. Choose the proper tool for the job. Cutters and snips are designed for a specific type and size of material.
2. Prevent injury from flying metal by wrapping a burlap bag, cloth or rag around the cutting jaws. Metal flies when cut. The harder the metal, the farther it will fly.
3. Warn those in the area to take precautionary measures to avoid possible injury from flying metal pieces.
4. Keep cutting tools in good repair.
5. Adjust and lubricate cutter and moving parts daily if heavily used.
6. Sharpen jaws according to manufacturer's instructions.

DON'T:

- Use a cutting tool until you are trained in its proper and safe use.
- Use cushion grip handles for jobs requiring insulated handles. Cushion grips are for comfort primarily and do not protect against electrical shock.
- Use cutters which are cracked, broken or loose.
- Exceed the recommended capacity of a tool.
- Cut diagonally.
- Rock cutters from side to side when cutting wire.
- Pry or twist with tool when cutting. Keep materials being cut at right angles to the cutting edges of jaws.
- Hammer on cutting tools to achieve greater cutting power.
- Expose cutter to excessive heat.

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SNIPS: There are four kinds of snips:

- Left cut – for making cuts to the left as well as straight cuts.
- Right cut – for making cuts to the right as well as straight cuts.
- Straight cut – for making straight cuts and shallow cuts to the right or left.
- Offset – permit you to keep your hands above the cut while cutting directly through the center of a large sheet.

1. Use snips for cutting soft metal only. Hard or hardened metal should be cut with cutting tools.
2. Use hand pressure for cutting. Never hammer or use your foot to exert extra pressure on cutting edges. If extra pressure is needed, use a larger tool.
3. Cut so that the waste is on the right if you are right handed.
4. Avoid springing the blades by trying to cut metal that is too thick or heavy for the snips used.
5. Keep the nut and the pivot bolt properly adjusted at all times. Oil the pivot bolt occasionally.
6. **DON'T:**
 - Try to cut sharp curves with straight cut snips.
 - Cut sheet metal thicker than .15 cm (0.062 in).
 - Extend the length of handles to secure greater leverage.
 - Attempt to resharpen snips in a sharpening device designed for other tools.
 - Use cushion grip handles for jobs requiring insulated handles.