

SAFE WORK PRACTICES

DRILLS, HAMMER DRILLS & CHIPPING HAMMERS

**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: All of these tools are used to make holes. They generate considerable torque. They create dust and shavings which can easily get into eyes, particularly when you are using the equipment overhead.

1. Know your equipment. Learn the operation, application and limitations as well as the specific and potential hazards of the equipment before operating it. Refer to the operating manual. Have someone with experience assist you before using the tool on your own.
2. Wear adequate PPE, and keep observers at a safe distance from the work area. Minimum PPE for the equipment is hard hat, safety glasses and steel toed boots. Check the MSDS before starting work for material specific hazards that could require other PPE.
3. Ensure that there is adequate room to work with the equipment. Don't stick yourself in a corner. Make sure that you have control over the equipment as it can build up considerable torque and may have a tendency to twist. Do not get your hands between the drill and a stationary object. If it binds, the recoil can crush hands and finger.
4. Do not lower the drill by the cord – this will eventually short out or break the cord.
5. If you are working off a ladder or scaffold, make sure that the equipment is secured in case you drop it. If by chance you do drop the tool, never try to reach for it – let it drop. Reaching out to grab a tool that is falling can lead to losing your balance and falling off of your ladder or scaffold.
6. Use extreme caution when drilling through the floor. Provide protection for all occupants, personnel, workers and material below the floor. Debris generally drops from the hole when it penetrates the bottom of the concrete.
7. Make sure that the equipment is returned to its case and locked up when you are finished with it.
8. Refer to the owner's manual for detailed instructions for each piece of equipment, and for maintenance instructions.