

SAFE WORK PRACTICES PIPE TOOLS

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

Pipe tools are made in various shapes and sizes and for many uses. Use the correct tool for the job.

PIPE WRENCHES

DO

WEAR safety glasses or a faceshield.

SELECT a pipe wrench with sufficient capacity and leverage to do the job.

USE a pipe wrench to turn or hold a pipe. Never use a pipe wrench to bend, raise or lift a pipe.

TAKE the bite of a pipe wrench near the middle of the jaws.

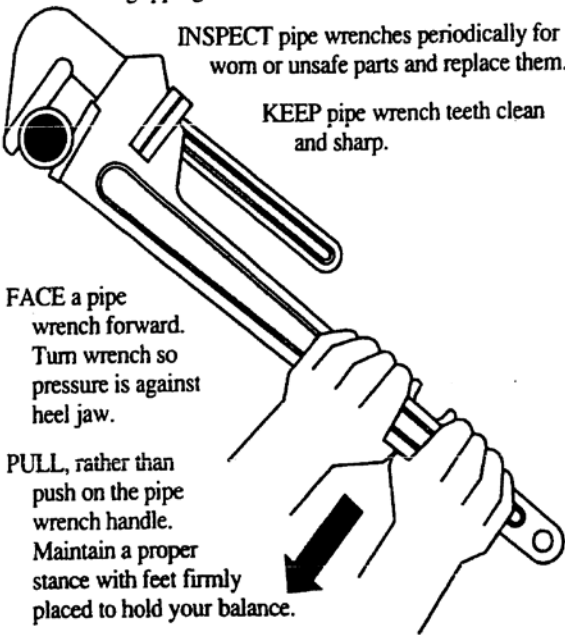
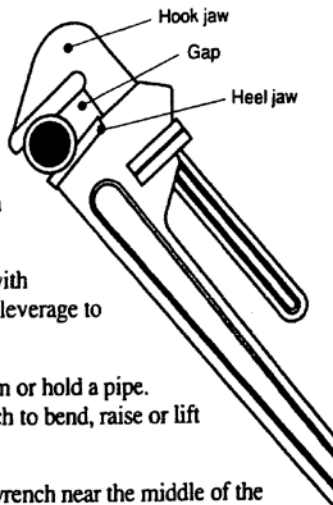
ADJUST the pipe wrench grip to maintain a gap between the back of the hook jaw and the pipe. This concentrates the pressure at the jaw teeth, producing the maximum gripping force. It also aids ratcheting action.

INSPECT pipe wrenches periodically for worn or unsafe parts and replace them.

KEEP pipe wrench teeth clean and sharp.

FACE a pipe wrench forward. Turn wrench so pressure is against heel jaw.

PULL, rather than push on the pipe wrench handle. Maintain a proper stance with feet firmly placed to hold your balance.



DO NOT

DO NOT USE a pipe wrench as a hammer, or strike a pipe wrench with a hammer.

DO NOT USE pipe wrenches on nuts and bolts.

DO NOT USE a pipe extender for extra leverage. Get a larger pipe wrench.

PIPE CUTTERS, REAMERS, THREADERS

DO

REPLACE pipe cutter wheels which are nicked or otherwise damaged.

USE a three- or four-wheeled cutter, if there is not enough space to swing the single wheel pipe cutter completely around the pipe.

CHOOSE a cutting wheel suitable for cutting the type of pipe material required:

- thin wheel for cutting ordinary steel pipe.
- stout wheel for cutting cast iron
- other wheels for cutting stainless steel, plastic and other materials

SELECT the proper hole diameter and correct tap size to tap a hole. The hole should be sized so that the thread cut by the tap will be about 75% as deep as the thread on the tap.

USE lubricant with metals other than cast iron.

DO NOT

DO NOT PERMIT chips to clog flutes. The chips prevent the tap from turning.

DO NOT ATTEMPT to thread hardened steel. This can chip or damage the die.

DO NOT THREAD any rod or other cylindrical object that is larger in diameter than the major diameter of the die thread.

DO NOT USE a spiral reamer on a rotating pipe. The reamer may snag and cause serious injury.