

SAFE WORK PRACTICES

SCREWDRIVERS *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: Screwdrivers are made in various shapes and sizes and form many uses. Use the correct screwdriver for the job. (Refer to “Generals Safe Hand Tool Operation” for general safeguards.)

1. Wear safety glasses.
2. Choose contoured handles that fit the shank tightly, with the flange to keep the hand from slipping off the tool.
3. Keep the screwdriver handle clean. A greasy handle could cause an accident.
4. Use screwdrivers with insulated handles for electrical work.
5. Use a screw-holding screwdriver to get screws started in awkward, hard-to-reach areas.
6. Use an offset screwdriver in close quarters where a conventional screwdriver cannot be used.
7. Use a screwdriver that incorporates the following features when continuous work is needed:
 - A pistol grip to provide for a straighter wrist and better leverage.
 - A “yankee drill” mechanism which rotates the bit when the tool is pushed forward.
 - A ratchet device to drive hard-to-move screws efficiently (alternatively, use a powered screwdriver).
8. Exercise extreme care when using a screwdriver near live electrical circuits.
9. File a rounded tip square making sure the edges are straight.
10. Store screwdrivers in a rack or partitioned pouch so that the proper screwdriver can be selected quickly.

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- **DON'T** lean or push on a screwdriver with any more force than necessary to keep contact with the screw. A screw properly piloted and fitted will draw itself into the proper position when turned. Keep the shank directly over the screw being driven in.
- **DON'T** hold the stock in one hand while using the screwdriver with the other. If the screwdriver slips out of the slot you may cut your hand.
- **DON'T** hammer screws which cannot be turned.
- **DON'T** grind the tip to fit all sizes of screw heads.
- **DON'T** use a defective screwdriver (rounded edges or tips, split or broken handle).
- **DON'T** use a screwdriver for prying, punching, chiseling, scoring, scraping or stirring paint.
- **DON'T** use pliers on the handle of a screwdriver for extra turning power. A wrench should only be used on the square screwdriver shank designed for the purpose.
- **DON'T** expose a screwdriver blade to excessive heat.
- **DON'T** use a screwdriver to check if an electrical circuit is live.
- **DON'T** carry screwdrivers in your pockets.