

Safe Work Procedure

Mar. 2010

Hand Tools – Hammers

- Wear CSA approved safety glasses or a face shield.
- Select hammers according to their intended use, Misuse can cause the striking face to chip, possibly causing a serious injury.
- Choose a hammer with a striking face diameter approximately 2.54 cm (1 in) larger than the face of the tool being struck.
- Strike a hammer blow squarely with the striking face parallel to the surface being struck. Always avoid glancing blows and over and under strikes.
- Look behind and above before swinging a hammer, and watch the object you are hitting.
- Hold the hammer with your wrist straight and your hand tightly wrapped around the handle.
- Do not use a hammer with a loose or damaged handle, do not use rough handles that are cracked, broken, splintered, sharp edged or loosely attached to the head.
- Do not use any hammer head with dents, cracks, chips, mushrooming or excessive wear.
- Do not redress, grind. Weld or reheat a hammer head.
- Do not strike with the side or cheek of the hammer.
- Do not use one hammer to strike another hammer.

Hammers and other striking tools are widely used and often abused. Hammers are made for specific purposes in various types and sizes, with striking surfaces of varying hardness.