

Safe Work Procedure

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Hand Tools – Pipe Tools

Pipe Wrenches

- Wear CSA approved safety glasses or face shield.
- Select 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 a bite of a pipe wrench near the middle of the jaws. Adjust the pipe wrench 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 the wrench so that pressure is against heel jaw.
- Pull rather than push on the pipe wrench handle. Maintain proper stance with feet firmly placed to hold your balance.
- Do not use a pipe wrench as a Hammer, or strike a pipe wrench with a hammer.
- Do not use on nuts or bolts and do not use a pipe extender for extra leverage, get a larger pipe wrench.

Pipe Cutters, Reamers, Threaders

- Replace pipe cutter wheels which are nicked or otherwise damaged
- Use 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 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.