

Safe Work Procedure

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Hand Tools – Pliers

- Wear CSA approved safety glasses or face shield.
- Cut at right angles. Never rock from side to side or bend wire back and forth against the cutting edges.
- Choose pliers that have a grip span of 6 – 9 cm (21/2- 31/2 in.)
- Choose tools with sufficient space between the handles to prevent your palm or fingers from being pinched.
- Pull the pliers do not push.
- Oil pliers regularly. A drop on the hinge will make the pliers easier to use.
- Do not cut hardened wire unless pliers are specifically manufactured for this purpose.
- Do not bend stiff wire with light pliers. Needle nose pliers can be damaged by using tips to bend large wire, use a sturdier tool.
- Do not use pliers as a hammer.
- Do not hammer on pliers to cut wire or bolts.
- Do not extend the length of handles to gain greater leverage. Use a larger pair of pliers or a bolt cutter.
- Do not use cushion grip handles for jobs requiring insulated handles. Cushion grips are primarily for comfort and do not protect against electric shock.
- Do not use pliers on nuts and bolts, use a wrench.

Pliers are made in various shapes and sizes and for many uses. Use the correct pliers for the job.