

Safe Work Procedure

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Hand Tools – Screwdrivers

Screwdrivers are made in various sizes and for many uses. Use the correct screwdriver for the job.

- Always wear CSA approved safety glasses or face shield when using a screwdriver.
- Choose contoured handles that fit the shank tightly, with a flange to keep the hand from slipping off the tool.
- Keep the screwdriver handle clean. A greasy handle could cause an accident.
- Use screwdrivers with insulated handles for electrical work.
- Use a screw holding screwdriver to get screws started in awkward, hard to reach areas.
- Use an offset screwdriver in close quarters where a conventional screwdriver cannot be used.
- 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 (alternately use a powered screwdriver.).
- Exercise extreme care when using a screwdriver near live electrical wires.
- Do not 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.
- Do not 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.
- Do not hammer screws which cannot be turned, do not grind the tip to fit all sizes of screws.
- Do not use screwdriver for prying, punching, chiseling, scoring, scraping or stirring paint.
- Do not 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 that purpose.
- Do not use a defective screwdriver (rounded edges or tips, split or broken handle).
- Do not carry screwdrivers in your pockets.