

Portable Tools: Selection Requirements

Department: Chemical and General Safety

Program: Portable Tools

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Authority: ES&H Manual, Chapter 25, Portable Tools

The following are requirements for users to follow when selecting portable (both power and hand) tools for a given task. Users must select tools that

1. Are correct for the job, that is, the tool is intended for the task and the task does not exceed the tool's design specifications. If in doubt users must check with their supervisors.
2. Can be used without the hand or wrist in an awkward position
3. Are well balanced
4. Fit the hand comfortably
5. Are not so heavy that they strain the arm and shoulder (lifting limits should be included in the user's job hazard analysis and mitigation documentation)
6. Have handles designed to minimize the grip force needed
7. Have soft grips that do not cut into the hand

Note Users are required to inspect tools visually before use and to remove from service any tool found defective.