

SMOHIT Body Maintenance
Toolbox Talks for the Sheet Metal Industry

Tool Use / Design

- Tool-use problems can be caused by using a tool for an inappropriate purpose and by using broken or damaged tools.
- Ergonomically sound methods to counter tool-use problems include:
 - Using tools that decrease wrist deviation.
 - Using tools only for their intended tasks.
 - Inspecting tools and equipment prior to use.
 - Using two-handle grip tools.
 - Using triggerless tools, tools with contact switches, and multi-finger triggers.
- Look for well-balanced tools.
 - Support handles allow you to support the weight with both hands.
- Make sure the handles are the correct size, shape, and material.
 - Look for tools with strip triggers and compressible coverings.
 - Handle grips should be oval or round.
 - You should be able to wrap your hand around the handle in a power grip.
 - Handles should be long enough for your hand and all your fingers (at least 5 ½ inches).
 - Handles should be non-slip to avoid accidents and to prevent you from having to grip it too forcefully.
 - Handles should also be non-porous so that they don't absorb chemicals and oils.
- If you are performing cutting tasks, keep the cutting tools sharp to reduce the force required and consider using a power saw.

Notes:

Instructor Tips

- **Remind workers to always use tools that allow them to keep their wrists straight.**

Keep your wrist straight by using an angled tool or by repositioning the material.
- **Swivels at the connection of a tool and power hoses make it easier to manipulate the tool instead of your wrists.**
- **Ask workers to discuss which methods listed in the second bullet, they use.**
- **Remind workers to always keep their tools in good working condition.**

Jobsite: _____
Supervisor: _____

Date: _____
G.C. _____

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Ergonomics (7)