





Alert #: SA 10-15 **Date:** 10/28/2015

Modified Tools

Almost all companies that manufacture power tools clearly state that no tool shall be modified or altered in any way or the warranty will be voided. They post these warnings for both the company's protection and the consumer. The workforce of GIS uses many of the same tools that anyone can buy in a department or hardware store. As a company, GIS issues the same warning that no tool shall be modified or altered for any use in addition to the manufacturer's provision.

On a recent field visit, a GIS LIFE representative spotted modifications to a hammer that did not meet GIS standards. The handle of the hammer had been cut to a shorter length without manufacturer, or GIS, authorization. Although no employees were injured, this is a very good example of not following GIS or Manufacturer policies on hand tools.

As with other tools that GIS employees use, there are various lengths of handles that can be ordered to fit specific tasks. Please order the right tool for the job.

Always adhere to the specifications set by the manufacturer and never try to "fix" or repair any problem with hand or power tools on your own unless properly trained and certified. Always send tools in to be repaired by someone trained to do so, and if extra parts are needed, please call or inform your supervisor so that the problem can be resolved. GIS does not allow temporary fixes or "Band-Aid" repairs on equipment, because those temporary repairs can lead to injuries if not done correctly.

Please take any "modified tools" that you find out of service and report it to your Supervisor.

