



# H S E

HEALTH SAFETY ENVIRONMENTAL



Alert #: SA 38-25

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## Dangers Associated with Hand Tools

Recent concerns brought up in observations concerning unsafe acts while using hand tools have prompted this safety alert.

### Disconnect Tools Before Changing Blades or Disks

Powered hand tools are designed for efficiency—but if they're not handled correctly, they can cause serious injuries.

#### Key Safety Reminder:

Always **unplug or disconnect power** (including removing the battery on cordless tools) before changing out blades, wheels, or disks.

- Unexpected activation can cause severe cuts, amputations, or eye injuries.
- Even a slight bump to the switch can start the tool while your hands are in the danger zone.
- Take the extra few seconds to verify the tool is completely de-energized before making adjustments.

Federal Regulations place the following requirements when servicing powered hand tools:

### OSHA & Safety Requirements

- **Disconnect Power Source**
  - Tools must be disconnected from the power supply (unplugged, battery removed, air supply shut off, or fuel shut down) before changing blades, disks, or bits.
  - This prevents accidental startup (29 CFR 1910.243(a)(5)).
- **Use Proper Wrenches/Tools**
  - Only the manufacturer's supplied or recommended wrenches/keys should be used to tighten or loosen blades/disks (29 CFR 1910.243(a)(2)(iii)).
- **Guarding Must Be in Place**
  - Guards must never be removed during blade/disk replacement, unless required by the design—and must be replaced immediately afterward (29 CFR 1910.243(a)(2)).
- **Check the Blade/Disk**
  - Inspect new blades/disks for cracks, warping, or defects before installation (29 CFR 1910.243(c)(5)).
  - Ensure the blade/disk is rated for the tool's RPM.
- **Securely Fasten**
  - Blade/disk must be properly mounted and tightened before use (29 CFR 1910.243(c)(6)).
- **Test Before Use**
  - After changing, run the tool at operating speed in a safe position (away from people) to ensure it's secure before cutting or grinding.

**Remember:** A quick disconnect can prevent a life-changing injury.



SAFETY ALERT