

Power Tool Liability

Power Tool Safety Checklist

Working with power tools can get the job done faster and more easily than it can be done by hand. If common sense and proper precautions are applied, power tools are a worker's best friends. If they are not applied, however, the results can be devastating. The following checklist can help ensure your safety when working with power tools.

Sometimes, even when all the rules are followed, accidents happen. If you've been injured by a power tool, you may be able to bring a products liability lawsuit against the manufacturer or seller. Such a lawsuit may be based on the manufacturer's production of a defective product, or perhaps the tool maker failed to provide adequate warnings or instructions to ensure the safe use of its power tool. In any event, an experienced products liability attorney can help determine whether you have a valid claim and help you recover all of the damages to which you are legally entitled.

- Keep your work area free of clutter and well lighted.
- Keep tools sharpened and oiled, as appropriate.
- Store all power tools in a dry place.
- Wear eye and ear protection when sawing, cutting, grinding, and drilling.
- Wear other protective gear, including dust masks and hard hats, as appropriate.
- Inspect all tools, including cords and accessories, regularly, and take all defective tools out of service.
- Repair or replace damaged or broken equipment immediately.
- Use three-pronged plugs, double-insulated tools, and safety switches to avoid electrical shock.
- Do not remove safety guards.
- Use the right tool for the job.
- Do not wear jewelry or loose clothing while using power tools.
- When working with a tool with a sharp blade, always carry it sharp side down, cover the blade with a shield when possible, and store it with the cutting edge down.

- ___ Make sure that all hand-held power tools are equipped with a dead-man switch so that power to the tool is cut off upon the operator's release of the control.
- ___ Never leave running tools unattended.
- ___ Use only non-sparking tools in areas where a fire or explosion hazard exists.
- ___ Allow all fuel-operated tools to cool down before refueling.
- ___ Avoid repetitive hand motions, hold tools in a neutral position, and take frequent rest breaks to avoid Repetitive Stress Injuries.
- ___ Do not raise or lower power tools using the cord.
- ___ Do not use staples to fasten the cord.
- ___ Do not damage the equipment's casing or cord insulation.
- ___ If you have been injured while using a power cord, consult an attorney to determine whether you may have a products liability claim against the manufacturer or the seller.