

# Prepare for Safe Operation

## Air Hoses

Air hoses connected to a pneumatic tool must have pressure ratings and pressure at the compressor in accordance with the pneumatic tool manufacturer's specifications/instructions.

- Inspect the air hose for cuts, abrasions, worn coupling threads and loose couplings. Replace faulty air hoses, couplings and other worn or damaged parts.
- Check that hose connections are tight and whip check lines are installed according to the manufacturer's instructions.

Remove dirt or water from the hose:

1. Disconnect any tools from the hose.
2. Connect the hose to the compressor.
3. Hold the open end of the hose securely to prevent whipping.
4. Turn on the compressor and blow out the hose to remove water or dirt accumulation. This will prevent internal damage to the pneumatic tool.

Never point an air hose at yourself or anyone else.  
Never blow your clothes clean with compressed air.

If a new air hose is used, blow lubricated air through the hose to completely coat the inside with oil (approximately 10 to 15 minutes).

**WARNING! A whipping hose could cause personal injury.**



**Inspect  
Hoses and  
Connections**



**Check Hose  
Connections and  
Whip Check Lines**



**Remove Tool,  
Hold Hose  
Securely**

# Prepare for Safe Operation

Make sure the air hose is connected snugly to the pneumatic tool. A loose hose not only leaks but can come off completely from the tool. A whipping hose under pressure can injure the operator and others in the work area. Attach whip checks or safety cables to all hoses to prevent injury in case a hose is accidentally broken. Be sure to install safety pins in all quick connect fittings. Open the compressor air supply valve progressively.

OSHA 1926.302 (b)(7) for pneumatic hand tools states that “All hoses exceeding 1/2” inside diameter shall have a safety device at the source of supply or branch line to reduce pressure in case of hose failure.”

## Pneumatic Tool Positioning

- Do not carry the pneumatic tool by the hose or by the throttle lever.
- Do not drag the pneumatic tool along the ground.
- Move any excess air hose out of the way to prevent tripping over the hose.
- Do not start the pneumatic tool while it is lying on the ground.
- Never let an idle pneumatic tool lie in dust or dirt unless all ports are closed with clean plastic caps and/or plugs.



**Make  
Sure Air Hose  
Connection is  
Tight**



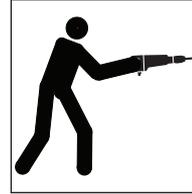
**Do Not Carry  
Pneumatic Tool  
by the Hose**



**Do Not Drag  
Pneumatic Tool**

# Prepare for Safe Operation

- Position the pneumatic tool where you can work without overreaching and where you can maintain a balanced and firm body stance. The tool must be positioned squarely and firmly against the work surface before start-up.
- Take care when setting the tool down to prevent accidental operation when the pneumatic tool has outside triggers or throttle levers.
- Keep hands away from the throttle lever or trigger until ready to start the pneumatic tool.
- Make certain the tool is securely installed and the retainer is locked in the closed position.
- Always be sure that gloves do not prevent the trigger from being released if the pneumatic tool has an inside throttle lever or trigger.
- Never rest the tool on your foot.



**Do Not  
Overreach**



**Gloves  
Must Not  
Prevent Trigger  
Release**



**Do Not  
Rest the Tool  
on Your Foot**

# Prepare for Safe Operation

## Lubrication

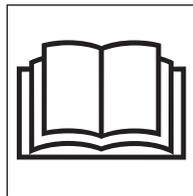
All pneumatic tools must receive a constant flow of lubricating oil during operation. Some pneumatic tools have self-contained oiling systems; others use auxiliary oiler systems as a primary or backup oiler.

**NOTICE!** *Operating a pneumatic tool without an adequate supply of lubricating oil may cause severe damage to interior components in a short time.*

- Use only the lubricating oil recommended in the pneumatic tool manufacturer's manuals/instructions.
- Avoid oil contamination from dirt or other impurities. Oil should be kept in covered containers and stored in an area that is relatively dust-free.
- Wipe the area clean around the filler plug before filling the lubricator. Do not allow dirt or water to enter the air inlet of the pneumatic tool.
- Never allow the lubricator to become empty. Check and refill the lubricator at the start of each shift and as often as the pneumatic tool manufacturer's manuals/instructions recommend during the shift.

If an auxiliary lubricator is not used:

- Disconnect the air hose after every two or three hours of operation and pour the recommended quantity of specified lubricating oil into the air inlet of the pneumatic tool.



# Start Safely

## Pneumatic Tool Start-up

Before starting the pneumatic construction tool and getting ready to operate the tool, make sure there are no obstacles or personnel in the work area.

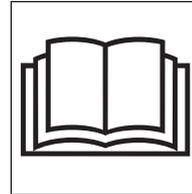
- Wipe your hands before using the pneumatic construction tool.
- Warn all others in the area that you are going to start operation.
- Always use both hands to operate and hold the pneumatic tool in position. Make sure the handle is kept clean of oil and grease.
- Always position the tool securely against the work surface before starting the pneumatic tool.
- Start your work with reduced pressure to avoid excessive bouncing or burying of the tool.

Start the pneumatic construction tool following the specific procedures in the manufacturer's operator manual.

- **Do not** allow the tool to bounce.
- **Do not** put excessive weight or down-pressure on the pneumatic tool. The tool will operate better with firm and steady operator control force.

The proper amount of force (down-pressure) will vary with the material being worked, the type of cutting or drilling implement used, and the weight of the pneumatic tool.

Shortly after start-up, check the pneumatic tool exhaust to make certain a mist of oil is being discharged with the exhaust air.



**Read  
Operator's  
Manual**

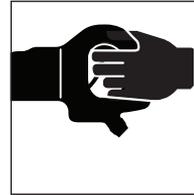


**Read and  
Understand All  
Safety Signs**

# Operate Safely

## Check Before Operating

- All control levers for proper operation. If there is any indication that an abnormal condition exists or the controls do not respond correctly, shutdown safely and correct the condition before operating. (See page 32, **Shut Down Safely**)
- Be sure you can control both the speed and direction before operating.
- Start and stop smoothly.
- Be aware of the work area terrain, specifically rough, slippery or soft terrain.



## Suggestions for Safe Operation

Smooth, controlled actions on your part are important when operating a pneumatic tool. Follow these suggestions for safe operation:

- **Do not** jerk the controls.
- **Do not** play games while operating the pneumatic construction tool. The pneumatic construction tool is not a toy.