



KNIVES

Knife blades are a persistent and common hazard. Take these precautions to avoid injury:

- Keep knives sharp so that they won't slip from the material being cut.
- Keep handles in good condition, with a good grip, and keep the handles clean. Replace knives that have worn handles.
- Keep knives in sheaths, holders, or racks with the edges guarded, except when using them.
- Store knives separately from other tools. Don't leave knives hidden under wiping rags or scrap paper, or materials and products.
- Make sure there is room to work; don't use knives where you don't have room to work without bumping or being bumped by other people or equipment.
- Don't use knives to cut things that would require excessive pressure on the knife. Don't use knives in place of can openers, screwdrivers, or ice picks.
- Certain kinds of protective clothing may be appropriate in some situations. Leather aprons or other protective clothing may be needed for the body; gloves, arm gauntlets and other articles might be useful. Talk to your supervisor.
- Metal mesh mail protective gloves have been around for years. There are now a number of new synthetic fibers that may be more flexible, allow better manipulation, and have other advantages over mail.
- Wrist supports can reduce wrist strain. These can also serve to protect the wrist from a knife cut.