



Screwdrivers

The screwdriver is one of the most commonly misused hand tools. While it is designed to tighten or loosen screws, you can also find it being used as a pry bar, punch or chisel. When that happens, the screwdriver can slip. When it slips, it can cause an injury or ruins the tool.

Guide for Discussion

Proper Care

- The handle should be tight, smooth and not slippery.
- The shank should be true and straight.
- The bit should be flat, with the end at a right angle with the shank.
- Keep the bit square edged.
- When sharpening, be use not to remove the bit temper.
- Keep the bit and handle clear and free of grease and oil.

Proper Use

- Always use the proper size bit to fit the screw head.
- Keep the bit square to the screw head.
- Never use pliers on a screwdriver; if possible, use a vise.
- Never use as a pry, chisel, punch or lever.
- Use only a standard screwdriver on a standard screw; Phillips head on a Phillips head screw.
- Select the right length for the job; don't try to improvise.
- Always use a screwdriver with an insulated handle for electrical work.

Additional Discussion Notes:

Remember: The screwdriver is a valuable tool when used properly. When used improperly, it becomes a hazard to your safety with the possibility of a resulting injury.

NOTE: Always promote a discussion on any of the topics covered in the Weekly Safety Meeting. Should any question arise that you cannot answer, don't hesitate to contact the Safety Director.