

# Pneumatic Nail Gun Safety Factsheet

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The most popular nailing device used in light and heavy construction is the pneumatic nail gun. It uses the force from compressed air to drive nails through hard surfaces. Recent injury accidents involving the use of pneumatic nail guns have raised concerns about safe operating procedures. These injury accidents could have been easily prevented by adhering to the following simple safety procedures for the use of these tools:

- Review the owner's manual carefully with all operators. Have someone who is familiar with the tool demonstrate safe operating procedures. Then have each employee take a turn on the tool, and watch how each one performs.
- Always wear safety glasses.
- Do not hold the trigger down unless you're purposefully firing the tool. This is especially important when descending ladders.
- Keep people out of range of fire. Exercise extreme caution when using an air tool around another worker.
- Never point the tool at anyone. Treat the tool like a firearm. Never assume the tool is empty.
- Disconnect the air hose before clearing a jam or making adjustments.

- Do not fire the tool unless the nose is firmly pressed against a work piece.
- Use only compressed air to power the tool, not bottled gas. Do not exceed the manufacturer's specified air pressure for the tool.
- Keep your free hand safely out of the way of the tool.
- Do not operate the tool around flammables.
- Nail top to bottom when nailing wall sheathing in a vertical position.
- Nail from the eaves to the ridge when nailing roof sheathing, this way you will not back off the edge of the roof.
- Move forward, not backward, when nailing horizontal areas.
- Secure the hose when working on scaffolding, to prevent the weight of the hose from dragging the tool off the scaffold if you set the tool down.

Other risks to guard against while using a nail gun include being hit by one of the nail gun's attachment or a fastener used with the tool and being hit by flying concrete, wood chips and nails.

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