

Guidelines For Tool Use

The following points are a guide to treating the tools correctly and avoiding common mistakes that can result in premature wear or damage. Remember that you cannot do good work with sub standard or damaged tools. Indeed, without your tools, you cannot do woodwork at all. Treat them with respect!

1. **Take extreme care not to drop tools on the concrete floor!**
2. Do not use any tools marked with a **red dot** without first consulting an instructor.
3. If you are unsure how to use or adjust any tool, **don't experiment**; ask an instructor instead.
4. Do not allow tools to come into contact with one another, especially cutting tools like chisels, files, rasps and saws. If you have multiple tools on the bench, place them separately in an ordered arrangement or in a **tool stand**. Do not put them on top of each other. Do not carry more than one tool in your hand.
5. **Do not sharpen** any Splinter Workshop tools yourself.
6. Do not attempt to **repair or modify** any Splinter Workshop tools.
7. Do not allow any tools or clamps to come into contact with **adhesives**. If this happens by accident please clean the tool thoroughly. Water based adhesives like PVA are corrosive.
8. Most cutting tools are designed to cut in only **one direction** so it is important to lift the tool on the return stroke to avoid unnecessary wear on the cutting edge (especially files, rasps and planes).
9. Treat your **work bench** with care. Use a protective board if necessary. Always protect the bench from contact with chisels, saws etc. Never directly strike the bench top with anything hard. Never draw on the bench top. Clean off adhesive promptly.
10. Treat **try-squares and vernier callipers with extreme care**. They are fragile and will easily lose their accuracy if knocked or dropped. Do not place them down near the edge of a table. If they come in contact with adhesive, clean and dry them promptly. Try - squares and straight edges with blobs of **dry glue** on them are useless until cleaned.
11. **Straight edges** are easily damaged. Dings, burrs and dried glue on the edge will cause false readings. Please treat them gently and avoid contact with other metal objects.
12. Take care when using **planes** to avoid bumping any other object, for example the vice or clamps. The body of the plane and the cutting edge are easily damaged. Any dings or burrs on the sole of the plane will mark the surface of your wood. Always rest planes on their side to prevent damage to the blade.
13. When using **chisels**, conserve the cutting edge by avoiding any twisting or levering motion. Do not strike a chisel with a mallet unless it has a ferule (metal ring at the top of the handle). Only use **wooden mallets** to strike chisels. Never use a metal hammer, nylon or a soft faced (assembly) mallet.
14. When using a **cutting board**, keep your saw strokes within the sacrificial wooden strip.
15. **Safety glasses** scratch easily. Treat them gently and never place them lens-down onto a surface.
16. A **burnisher** must only used on scraper blades. Anything harder, such as a file or a hard chisel will cause damage. A scratched burnisher takes a long time to repair.

17. **Japanese hand saws** are more fragile than western style saws. They have very slender teeth and thin blades. They must not be used on very hard woods (for example, most eucalypts). They are designed to cut efficiently with little force. Applying heavy force to the saw will bend and break the teeth. They cut on the PULL stroke. No downward force should be applied on the push stroke.
18. Never use the **hand-made dove tail saws** for anything other than cutting **small** dovetails or doing **small** rip cuts.
19. Use a **rip saw** to cut along the grain and a **cross cut saw** to cut across the grain
20. Small (150mm) **rulers** regularly get lost because they are so small. Please don't put them in your pocket or leave them around the workshop.
21. **PLEASE DO NOT PUT TOOLS AWAY** after use or at the end of the class. Leave them neatly on your bench.