

NAIL GUN USE & SAFETY

General Safety Rules for Nail Gun Use

- 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, and never exceed 120 psi.
- 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.

Multi-Shot and Single-Shot Nail Guns

IMPORTANT: Use **SINGLE-SHOT** Nail Guns for **FRAMING** only and **MULTI-SHOT** Nail Guns for **SHEATHING** only! Misuse of these Nail Guns will cause serious injuries and fatalities.

Nail Gun Injuries

The misuse of a Nail Gun can produce serious lifelong altering effects. Some of the more common injuries listed below were caused by improper training and not implementing a few simple safety measures:

- **Severe Puncture Wounds**
- **Osteomyelitis** (acute inflammation of an injured bone resulting from an unseen infection)
- **Head and Facial Injuries**
- **Eye Injuries**
- **Tendon and Nerve Damage to the Hands, Legs, and Arms**
- **Serious Injuries To Others**

General Duties Clause

Occupational Safety and Health Administration
OSH Act of 1970

- (a) Each employer
- (1) shall furnish to each of his employees employment and a place of employment which are free from recognized hazards that are causing or are likely to cause death or serious physical harm to his employees;
 - (2) shall comply with occupational safety and health standards promulgated under this Act.
- (b) Each employee shall comply with occupational safety and health standards and all rules, regulations, and orders issued pursuant to this Act, which are applicable to his own actions and conduct.

Handheld Nail/Stapling Guns

Pneumatic nailers (nail or staple guns) are powered by compressed air at pressures up to 100 pounds per square inch (psi).



Fasteners/Attachments/Hoses

Potential Hazard:

- There is always the danger of getting hit by one of the tool's attachments or by some kind of fastener the worker is using with the tool.



Possible Solutions:

- Pneumatic tools that shoot nails, rivets, staples, or similar fasteners, and operate at pressures more than 100 pounds per square inch (6,890 kPa), must be equipped with a special device to keep fasteners from being ejected, unless the muzzle is pressed against the work surface.
- Pneumatic tools must be checked to see that they are fastened securely to the air hose to prevent them from becoming disconnected. A short wire or positive locking device attaching the air hose to the tool also must be used and will serve as an added safeguard.
- If an air hose is more than 1/2 inch (12.7 millimeters) in diameter, a safety excess flow valve must be installed at the source of the air supply to reduce pressure in case of hose failure.
- In general, the same precautions that are recommended for electric cords should be taken with air hoses, as the hoses are subject to the same kind of damage or accidental striking. An air hose also presents tripping hazards.

Flying Objects

Potential Hazard:

- Like other pneumatic tools, there is a hazard of flying concrete, wood chips, and/or nails.



Possible Solutions:

- Compressed air guns should never be pointed toward anyone. Workers should never "dead-end" a pneumatic gun against themselves or anyone else. A chip guard must be used when compressed air is used for cleaning.
- Eye protection is required, and head and face protection is recommended, for employees working with pneumatic tools.
- Screens also must be set up to protect nearby workers from being struck by flying fragments around chippers, riveting guns, staplers, or air drills.

Noise

Potential Hazard:

- Noise levels from some pneumatic tools can cause permanent hearing damage or complete loss of hearing.

Possible Solution:

- Hearing protection should be worn at all times. [1910.243(b)] and [1910.95(b)(1)]

