



Tools—Hand and Power

Council Approval: May Be Required

Activity Permitted for: D B J C S A

Tools are specific to grade level; please review the [Master Tool Chart](#).

About Hand and Power Tools

Tools vary greatly by their power source (battery operated, electric, or manual) as well as what job they are to be used for. While using tools can achieve great accomplishments, using extreme caution with all tools is extremely important. Adults must supervise tool use, always, and Girl Scouts should never operate tools on their own or be left alone at any time. Adult supervision is mandatory for all projects using tools no matter how big or small.

Learn More

- [Safety Tips from OSHA](#)
- [Department of Industrial Relations](#)

Include Girl Scout Members with Disabilities. Talk to Girl Scout members with disabilities and their caregivers. Ask about needs and accommodations. Always be sure to contact the location and/or the instructor in advance to ensure they are able to accommodate those with disabilities.

Equity. Consider the history, culture, and past experiences of the Girl Scout members in your troop that could affect their ability to equally participate in an activity. Work with members and families to understand how an activity is perceived. Ensure that all Girl Scout members and their families feel comfortable and have access to whatever is needed to fully participate, such as proper equipment, prior experiences, and the skills needed to enjoy the activity. See the Equity section of the [Introduction to Safety Activity Checkpoints](#) for general advice about expense,

Emergency Action Plan (EAP). Review and document your Emergency Action Plan (EAP) before starting any activity and review it so all are prepared. Think through scenarios of what can go wrong such as an accident, physical injury, missing person, sudden illness, or sudden weather or water emergencies. Troops must provide one adult certified in Adult and Pediatric CPR/First Aid/AED.

Tools—Hand and Power Checkpoints

Assess maturity level. Participants must be old enough to understand safety procedures and handle equipment so as not to endanger themselves and others.

Dress appropriately. Make sure that all participants avoid wearing dangling earrings, bracelets, and necklaces that may become entangled in equipment. Also make sure long hair is tied back, and always wear closed-toed shoes. Always use Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) such as eye goggles, leather gloves, and ear and head protection (when necessary).

Verify instructor knowledge and experience. At least one adult needs to be trained in proper usage of the tools being used including safety precautions, equipment use, emergency procedures, and which grade levels are permitted to use which tools.

General safety tips for hand and power tools:

- **Always have an adult who is trained** in that piece of equipment or tool teach the participants how to use each item.
- **Buy quality tools.** Many tools, including cutters and hammers, should be made of steel, and should be heat-treated.
- **Regularly inspect tools** to make sure they are in good shape and fit for use.
- **Be sure to maintain your tools** by performing regular maintenance, like grinding or sharpening. Always follow the manufacturer's instructions.
- **Use the right tool for the job.** In other words, do not try to use a wrench as a hammer.
- **Make sure your feet are planted on a stable surface.**
- **Be aware of the people around you** and make sure they stay clear of the tools you are using.
- **Never carry tools up a ladder by hand.** Instead, use a bucket or bag to hoist tools from the ground to the worker.
- **When working at heights, never leave tools lying out** in areas where they could present a hazard to workers below.
- **Never carry pointed tools in your pocket.** Carry them in a toolbox or cart instead.
- **Inspect your tools on a regular basis,** checking for damage. Report damaged tools to your supervisor.
- **Make sure to keep extra tools handy** in case the tool you had planned to use is damaged.
- **Make sure tools are stored in a safe place.**

Safety tips for electric power tools. To prevent hazards associated with the use of power tools, workers should observe the following general precautions:

- Never carry a tool by the cord or hose.
- Never yank the cord or the hose to disconnect it from the receptacle.
- Keep cords and hoses away from heat, oil, and sharp edges.
- Disconnect tools when not using them, before servicing and cleaning them, and when changing accessories such as blades, bits, and cutters.
- Keep all people not involved with the work at a safe distance from the work area.
- Secure work with clamps or a vise, freeing both hands to operate the tool.
- Avoid accidental starting. Do not hold fingers on the switch button while carrying a plugged-in tool.
- Maintain tools with care; keep them sharp and clean for best performance.
- Follow instructions in the user's manual for lubricating and changing accessories.
- Be sure to keep good footing and maintain good balance when operating power tools.
- Wear proper clothing for the task. Loose clothing, ties, or jewelry can become caught in moving parts.
- Remove all damaged portable electric tools from use and tag them: "Do Not Use."
- Keep floors dry and clean to avoid slipping while working with or around dangerous tools.
- Keep cords from presenting a tripping hazard.
- Use tools that are double-insulated or have a three-pronged cord and are plugged into a grounded receptacle.
- Do not use electric tools in wet conditions unless they are approved for that use.
- Use a ground fault circuit interrupter (GFCI) or an assured grounding program.

Paint Roller with Extension Pole			X	X	X	X
Paint Sprayer–Small, less than 50 psi.				X	X	X
Pickaxe				X	X	X
Pocket Knife		X	X	X	X	X
Posthole Digger				X	X	X
Pressure Washer (>50 but <100 psi.)					X	X
Rake	X	X	X	X	X	X
Residential Lawn Mower (push, electric, gas powered)					X	X
Residential Lawn Mower (self-propelled, riding)	Not Permitted					
Retractable Knives				X	X	X
Router/Planer	Not Permitted					
Screwdriver (electric)			X	X	X	X
Screwdrivers	X	X	X	X	X	X
Shovel	X	X	X	X	X	X
Soldering Iron				X	X	X
Trowel		X	X	X	X	X
Wheel Cart, one-, two-, or four-wheeled			X	X	X	X
Woodchippers	Not Permitted					
Wood Chisel			X	X	X	X
Wood Sanding Block (handheld)	X	X	X	X	X	X

Master Tool Chart

Type of Tool	Grade Level(s) Permitted					
	D	B	J	C	S	A
Band/Scroll Saw				X	X	X
Belt Sander (electric, cordless)				X	X	X
Chain Saws	Not Permitted					
Circular, Reciprocating, or Radial Saw	Not Permitted					
Commercial Lawn Mower (push, self-propelled, riding)	Not Permitted					
Coping Saw		X	X	X	X	X
Cordless Drill				X	X	X
Cutting Tools—Small (e.g., Dremel)				X	X	X
Edger (electric, gas powered)						X
Hacksaw				X	X	X
Hand Clipper—Small		X	X	X	X	X
Handheld Sander—Small				X	X	X
Handsaw		X	X	X	X	X
Hedge Trimmer (electric, gas powered)						X
Hoe	X	X	X	X	X	X
Hose Spray Washer	X	X	X	X	X	X
Hot Glue			X	X	X	X
Jigsaw					X	X
Leaf/Grass Blower (electric, gas powered)						X
Line Trimmer (electric, gas powered)	Not Permitted					
Log Splitters	Not Permitted					
Mattock				X	X	X
Nail Hammer	X	X	X	X	X	X
Paint Roller	X	X	X	X	X	X