

Utility Knife Safety

Keeping yourself and others around you safe from injury is a top priority when using utility knives in the workplace. Here are some safety tips to follow that will help ensure that utility knives are being used in a safe, efficient manner:

- Wear cut resistant gloves when using utility knives
- Always cut in a direction away from your body.
- Many utility knives carry replacement blades inside the handle, so it is important to be careful when opening the handle so as not let the extra blades fall out.
- If you drop a cutting tool, stand back and let it fall. Never try to catch it!
- Stay sharp! Sharp blades will cut cleanly through a material. Dull blades will tug and pull, which is more likely to cause your hand to slip and lead to an injury.
- Cut away from your body with even pressure.
- Stay focused and keep your eyes on your work while using a utility knife. If you are interrupted while using a utility knife, put it down in a flat, safe place.
- Always pass a utility knife handle first and with the blade retracted.
- When cutting material, extend the blade only to the thickness needed to cut the material. This not only prevents damage to other items but also improves cutting leverage.