

Cartridge-operated tools

Reason	Cartridge-operated tools must be used in a safe manner. If cartridge-operated tools are used recklessly or by untrained operators they can be lethal.
Outline	This talk covers what you should do before use, the hazards and how to use these tools safely.



Cartridge tool



Cartridge tool shots



Using a cartridge tool on a stable surface



Safe storage of a cartridge tool



Always treat cartridge-operated tools with respect.

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Before use

1. You must be trained, over 18, and authorised to use cartridge-operated tools.
2. Read and understand the manufacturer's instructions carefully before using any tool.
3. Load the tool with the barrel pointing away from you and others.
4. Never walk around with a loaded tool. Load it just before use.

Hazards

1. Using a cartridge that is too powerful for the task.
2. Firing into voids or materials that are too thin.
3. Firing into the hole of a previously attempted fixing.
4. Trying to fix into excessively hard material.
5. Not holding the tool square to the surface, or the fixing is too near the edge of the material.
6. Placing parts of the body (such as hands) behind the surface being fixed into.

Safe use

1. Always wear the correct personal protective equipment (PPE) when using cartridge-operated tools.
2. Hold the tool at right angles to the job when firing.
3. Check the material into which the fixing is to be fired to test for through penetration. Carry out a test fire first. Check that no-one is behind or to the side of the target.
4. Allow at least 75 mm from the edges of concrete or brickwork.
5. Ensure the complete splinter guard is resting on the work surface.
6. Never place your hand over the end of the barrel.
7. In the event of a misfire, wait a minute, do not withdraw the tool, then refire it. If nothing happens, wait a further minute before unloading.

After use

1. Keep the tool clean and well lubricated.
2. Never leave the tool loaded when not in use.
3. Cartridges must be kept locked away in a safe place.
4. Do not discard new or used caps or cartridges onto the floor within the work area.



What should you do before using a cartridge tool?

What is through penetration caused by?

What are the main reasons for ricochets?

How far from the edge of concrete should the tool be?

What should you do with the tool after use?

What should you do if the tool misfires?

What should you check for before firing into a target?



Now inform your workers of the company policy regarding cartridge-operated tools.