

All workers using nail guns, or working near others who are using nailers, should be wearing proper PPE for protection including:

- Safety shoes, like steel-toed boots
- Hard hats
- High-impact eye protection
- Hearing protection, like earplugs or earmuffs



Safety precautions for workers using nail guns:

- Check tools and power sources before operating to make sure that they are in proper working order. Take broken or malfunctioning nail guns out of service immediately.
- Set up operations so that workers are not in the line of fire from nail guns being operated.
- Check lumber surfaces before nailing. Look for knots, nails, straps, hangers, etc. that could cause recoil or ricochet.
- Use a hammer or positive placement nailer when nailing metal joinery or irregular lumber.
- For placement work, always keep hands at least 12 inches away from the nailing point. Consider using clamps to brace instead of your hands.
- Always shoot nail guns away from your body and away from co-workers.
- Set up jobs to minimize the need for nailing at height. Consider using scaffolds instead of ladders.
- Never bypass or disable nail gun safety features.
- Do not lower the nail gun from above or drag the tool by the hose.
- Do not use a nail gun with your non-dominant hand.
- Only workers who have been trained on safe operating procedures should be using nail guns.

Discussion

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What is the difference between recoil and nail ricochet? Why are they dangerous?

What additional nailer safety precautions can you think of that aren't mentioned above?