BOX CUTTERS

➤ Inspect the box cutter before you use it and confirm the blade is sharp. Dull blades require more force and can increase your chance of injury.

➤ Maximize visibility by only working in areas with adequate lighting.

➤ Wear protective clothing like safety glasses and also consider and always wearing cut-resistant gloves.

➤ Stand in a well-balanced, stable position when using a box cutter. If you have to bend over, twist, or reach while cutting your have less control.

➤ Cut at an angle away from your body. Make sure no body parts are in the cutting path, or in the path the blade might take if it slips.

➤ Only use box cutters for their intended purpose. Do not use a box cutter to open cans, pry open lids, or loosen screws.

➤ Never put something you are cutting on your lap or in the palm of your hand.

➤ If the tool has a retractable blade, make sure to retract it fully immediately after use. If it has a cover, keep the blade covered when it's not in use.

➤ Never set a box cutter down with the blade exposed.

➤ Do not rush through cutting tasks. If you notice you are distracted, take a moment to refocus before you continue working.

➤ When cutting thick material make several passes with the box cutter, applying more pressure each time. This method allows you to have more control.

➤ Do not rush when you are changing blades. Take your time and use caution when handling both the old and new blades. If the blade is stuck, don't force it.

➤ Discard blades in an appropriate, puncture-resistant container. Do not throw used blades directly into a trash bag or waste bin.

Discussion

How can you tell when it's time for a fresh blade on a box cutter?

What incorrect behavior do you think is the most common cause of box cutter injuries?

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