

Powder Actuated Tool

OHBA Safety Pages

Powder-actuated tools operate like a loaded gun and should be treated with the same respect and precautions. While they are designed with safety in mind, they are potentially very dangerous and must be operated by properly trained employees who are equipped with all necessary PPE to protect against potential risks.

Recommended PPE (Personal Protective Equipment)

- Eye Safety – Safety Glasses or Safety Goggles
- Hearing Safety – Ear Plugs or Ear Muffs
- Faces Safety – Face Shield – This depends on the scope of work, what type of material are you shooting into?

Before Using

- Test powder actuated tools each day before loading to ensure that the safety devices are in proper working condition. Any tool found not to be in proper working order shall be immediately removed from service until repairs are made.
- Inspect a tool before use to determine that it is clean, that all moving parts operate freely and that the barrel is free from obstructions.
- Conduct a thorough study of each job site. Know the types of materials you'll be driving into so you can select the proper stud and cartridge. Also, know what is on the other side of a wall and what is inside it, such as electric wires, pipes or wire chasers.

Using the Tool

Dos: • Do hold the tool perpendicular to the work surface.

- Do use tools with the type of shield or muzzle guard appropriate for a particular use.
 - Do wear Personal Protective Equipment (PPE), such as eye and hearing protection, when using powder actuated fastening tools.
 - Do load immediately before firing only. Never carry a loaded tool from one job to another.
- Do Nots:** • Do not point the tool, whether loaded or not, at any person.
- Do not load the tool until just prior to the intended firing time.
 - Do not leave tools or powder charges unattended in places where they would be available to unauthorized persons.
 - Do not use a powder actuated tool in an explosive or flammable atmosphere.
 - Do not drive fasteners into very hard or brittle materials such as cast iron, glazed tile, surfaced hardened steel, glass block, live rock, face brick or hollow tile.
 - Do not drive fasteners into soft materials unless such materials are backed by a substance that will prevent the pin or fastener from passing completely through and creating a flying missile hazard on the opposite side.
 - Do not drive fasteners into an existing hole unless a positive guide is used to secure accurate alignment.

Jams and Misfires

- Never attempt to release a loaded tool that has jammed in the firing position. Place it in a safe place and check the manufacturer's manual.
- If a misfire occurs, hold the tool against the work surface for 15 to 30 seconds. Do not remove the tool from the work surface when opening the tool and removing the defective load. Check the manufacturer's recommendations for disposal instructions in case of a misfire.



The information we provide is not intended to include all possible safety measures and controls. In addition, the safety information we provide does not relieve the Members of its own duties and obligations with regard to safety concerns, nor does Oregon Home Builders Association guarantee to the Members or others that the Member's property, job sites and/or operations are safe, healthful, or in compliance with applicable laws, regulations or standards. The Members remain responsible for their own operations, safety practices and procedures and should consult with legal counsel as they deem appropriate.

Employer: _____ Project: _____

Date: _____ Time: _____ Shift: _____

Number in crew: _____ Number attending: _____

Safety or Health issues discussed. Include recent accident investigations and hazards involving tools, equipment, the work environment, work practices and any Safety or Health recommendations:

Follow up on recommendations from last safety meeting:

Record of those attending:

Name: (please print)	Signature:	Company:
1.		
2.		
3.		
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5.		
6.		
7.		
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9.		
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11.		
12.		

Supervisor's remarks: _____

Supervisor: _____ (Print) _____ (Signature)