

Powered Tools: Check the Tool, Guard and Accessory

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Why this matters

A tool can look ready while the wrong accessory, missing guard or unreliable control makes the task unsafe. Check the actual tool and setup before starting. A new or borrowed tool still needs the required checks.

Objective: Identify the correct tool configuration and show how required safeguards are verified safely.

Key hazards or failure points

Incompatible attachments; damaged guards; unexpected starting; unsecured work; expelled parts; dust or noise; people in the movement or particle path.

Practical controls

- Use a tool and accessory approved for the material and task. Find the actual model instructions and applicable limits. The user must have the required training and authorization.
- Keep required guards and retaining devices installed and effective. Support the work and separate other people from the hazard. Use the task's dust, noise, eye and other protective controls.
- Before adjustments, accessory changes or servicing, follow the applicable shutdown, disconnection or energy-isolation procedure. Different power sources require different methods; never bypass a safeguard to make the job easier.

Verify It in the Field

Place the tool in the manufacturer-specified safe state. Compare tool and accessory identifiers with the permitted configuration, ratings and task. Stop for an unreadable rating or an unresolved mismatch.

The trained user checks guards, retainers and operating controls using the actual instructions. Complete any prescribed function check in its specified safe setup. Never put a hand in the path or defeat protection to test it.

Check work support, supply connections and separation from others before use. Record the instruction or criterion, safe method and actual findings. Remove failed or uncertain equipment from use through the site process.

Stop and reassess

Hold use for a missing guard, failed control, damage, incompatible accessory or unexplained movement. Reassess after a changed material, attachment, location or exposure to others. Repair and required reinspection must precede release; a tag alone does not prove correction.

Ask the crew

1. Which instruction confirms this accessory is suitable?
2. How do we check the guard and control safely?
3. What changes require another check?

Before starting: verify the configuration and the protection.

Sources: OSHA 1926.300 and 1926.302; actual tool and accessory instructions.

Free next step: [JHA/JSA planning & field-verification worksheet](#)

Expanded guidance, references, supervisor check and attendance record accompany this talk.