

Top 10 Dos and Don'ts for Nail Gun Use



Nail guns are one of the most commonly used and helpful tools at construction sites. They can also cause serious injury. Nail gun injuries are responsible for an estimated 37,000 emergency room visits and several fatalities each year. To reduce the risk, workers should follow these safety tips and warnings.

Do

Know your trigger

Know what type of trigger your nail gun has and the risks posed by the different trigger mechanisms.

Wear PPE

Proper personal protective equipment (PPE) includes steel-toe safety shoes, a hard hat, hearing protection and ANSI Z87.1 approved safety glasses.

Be aware of recoil

Avoid firing at head level or on a ladder where the recoil can cause serious injury.

Follow the manual

Only use fasteners approved by the manufacturer for use.

Check your airline

Always disconnect the airline before doing any maintenance or moving it to another location.

Don't

Don't rest holding the trigger

If the nail gun is bumped, a nail could fire.

Don't bypass safety systems

Removing safety guards can lead to accidental firing, injury, and expose your employer to costly Cal/OSHA citations.

Don't fire nails into inappropriate materials

This is more likely to cause the nail to ricochet or cause more dangerous recoil.

Don't let uncertified staff use powder-actuated nail guns

Cal/OSHA regulations require use by qualified workers carrying a valid operator's card.

Don't point the nail gun at people

Keep your hand away from the firing end of the nail gun and don't use it if someone is working on the other side of the item you are driving nails into.

For more workplace safety information and safety meeting topics, visit www.SafeAtWorkCA.com.

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