

## Maintain edged hand tools and sharpen cutting edges

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This standard is about sharpening and maintaining edged hand tools, including their repair and storage. This includes:

- identifying and dealing with defects in tools
- replacing tool handles and shafts
- protecting tools to prevent corrosion, damage and personal injury
- sharpening edged tools
- the correct storage of tools

When working with machinery you need to be appropriately trained, and hold current certification where required, in line with relevant legislation.

Your work must conform to all relevant legislation and codes of practice when carrying out this work.

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### Performance criteria

You must be able to:

1. assess the risks associated with the site and the proposed work
2. select and implement appropriate working method, in accordance with the assessed risks
3. select and use the appropriate personal protective equipment (PPE) for the work
4. select, prepare and use the appropriate tools and equipment required for sharpening and maintaining edged tools, safely and effectively
5. maintain edged hand tools by identifying and making safe minor defects in an edged hand tool handle or shaft
6. identify any major defects in edged hand tools
7. repair and ensure that the edged hand tool is in a safe working condition
8. identify defective and dull cutting edges and use the appropriate equipment to sharpen and restore the correct cutting edge on tools
9. store tools correctly to maintain their condition and make sure they are safe to use
10. maintain the health and safety of yourself and others at all times, in accordance with relevant legislation

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### Knowledge and understanding

You need to know and understand:

1. how to identify hazards and assess risks
2. how to interpret risk assessments
3. select and use appropriate personal protective equipment (PPE) for the work
4. the health and safety implications of defects in edged hand tools, edged tools and shafts
5. the different methods and devices for sharpening edged hand tools
6. the different tool edge profiles and which are appropriate for different purposes
7. how to identify the bevel and edge characteristics of individual edge tools required to fulfil their specific function
8. the importance of “temper” in an edge tool
9. the appropriate use of a range of sharpening stones and the difference between oil and wet stones
10. the appropriate use of angle grinders and grinding wheels
11. how to safely test the sharpness of a tool and when a tool requires sharpening
12. the maintenance and protection required for sharp edged tools
13. the different methods of fitting a new handle or shaft
14. how to select the appropriate materials for tool handles
15. how to store tools safely to maintain their condition
16. how to label, store and report damaged and dangerous tools
17. your responsibilities under relevant environmental, health and safety legislation and codes of practice



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**Scope/range related  
to performance  
criteria**

Repair edged hand tools: replacing the handle, regrinding the bevel, honing the cutting edge

Major defects: requiring handle or shaft replacement

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