

# SAFE USE OF UTILITY KNIVES

## SAFETY GUIDELINES



Utility knives are handy tools commonly used to cut drywall and insulation, cardboard, plastic sheeting, and more. Some utility knives are designed to protect you and automatically retract or cover the blade after a cut, and only expose one corner of the blade at a time.

Utility knives might seem simple, but they are one of the most commonly misused tools and can lead to serious injury.

### COMMON CAUSES OF UTILITY KNIFE ACCIDENTS

- ♦ Not inspecting the knife before use.
- ♦ Storing the knife with the blade extended.
- ♦ Not wearing personal protective equipment.
- ♦ Using a dull blade.

### SAFETY TIPS TO PREVENT ACCIDENTS

- ♦ Check your knife before using it – make sure the blade is sharp and not damaged.
- ♦ Always wear safety glasses as blades can break or snap.
- ♦ Use the knife only as intended – never use knives for prying or turning screws.
- ♦ Use a straight edge for clean cuts.
- ♦ Always cut away from your body and your other hand.
- ♦ Cut on a flat and stable surface. Never use your lap or hand.
- ♦ If possible, use clamps to hold materials instead of your hands.
- ♦ Cut-resistant gloves are recommended for additional protection.
- ♦ Retract or cover the blade when not in use.
- ♦ Dispose of dull or broken blades in a puncture-resistant container.
- ♦ Consider using self-retracting blades to help prevent accidental cuts.



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