

# USING PNEUMATIC FASTENER TOOLS SAFELY

Powered by compressed air, pneumatic fastening tools like staplers and nailers cause more on-the-job injuries than you might think. Between 1997 and 2006, Oregon Department of Consumer and Business Services (DCBS) reported 596 disabling claims attributed to nail guns, approximately 80% of which occurred when a discharged nail struck a worker, often causing a severe puncture wound that can lead to infections or other medical complications.

## General safety guidelines include:

- Read and understand the owner's manual.
- Inspect the tool before use.
- Use clean, dry, regulated air.
- Make sure operators and bystanders wear eye, hearing, and head protection.
- Use hoses and fittings that meet the pressure and safety ratings of the tools and will release tool pressure when the tool is disconnected from the supply line.
- Choose the right triggering system for the job. Most manufacturers offer more than one system, so check your owner's manual for the triggering options for your pneumatic tool.
- Maintain a solid, stable stance while driving fasteners.
- Keep your fingers off the trigger when you are not driving fasteners.
- Disconnect the air supply when the tool is adjusted, repaired, reloaded, or not in use.
- Be aware where co-workers are located and what is under and behind the work surface.
- Double-check you nail length vs. material thickness.
- Clean and oil the tool regularly.

For more information on pneumatic fastening tools, visit the International Staple, Nail, and Tool Association, [www.isanta.org](http://www.isanta.org).



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