

Flooring Hand tools

Hand tools are a necessity of any trade and become personal in that:

- some tools will last for a very long time;
- you will use them regularly and become used to them; and
- you will care for and maintain them.

When working with your flooring workmates it is very easy to get tools mixed up therefore it is wise to always mark or name your tools in a way that you can identify them as yours.

There are many basic hand tools that are used for many of the different flooring tasks. Using ***'the right tool for the job'*** and making sure the tool is in ***'good working order'*** will help you make a professional finish.

This resource book looks at using, caring and storing the many tools that are used across the following areas of our flooring industry:

- ✓ Substrate preparation, Resilient, Carpet, Timber, Fine sanding and Coating applications

Preparation Tools

Rubbing stones



Description

An abrasive stone. Rubbing stones are available in different grits, shapes and sizes.

Use

For smoothing off a slightly rough concrete surface, smoothing off trowel marks from set resurfacing compounds etc.

Care

Keep dry. Do not drop. Although they are very hard they are also brittle and break easily.

Storage

Store tidily in your tool box.

Plastering trowel



Finishing trowel



Joint knife/spatula

Description

Trowel: A handle attached to a flat smooth metal blade. The blades are available in different lengths and are made of steel or stainless steel.

Joint knife/spatula: A small metal blade with a handle attached. Available in various sizes and metals.

Use

Trowel: For applying resurfacing compounds to level and/ or smooth rough surfaces.

Joint knife/paint scraper: For applying compounds to joints, small fiddly corners, spot filling nail holes etc.

Care

Clean down straight away after use with water and dry off the blade to stop from rusting.

Cleaning with a sharp scraper after the compound has set takes longer to clean and increases the risk of injuring yourself. Be careful with the edges as resurfacing compounds are very coarse. Over time the trowel edges become very sharp.

Storage

Store dry and clean in your tool box or in a shelf /rack in your van.

Storing trowels on the floor of the van or on top of the rubbish may result in the trowel being thrown out with the rubbish, or the handle getting broken.

Did you know?

Tungsten Carbide is a chemical compound that is heated and pressed into a hardened state. It is used for making industrial tools e.g. blades and drill bits etc. and is three times stiffer than steel. The name Linbide scraper is often used for Tungsten carbide scrapers. Linbide is actually the name of a tool company that makes scrapers.

Hand scrapers (pull)



Tungsten Carbide blade scraper



Tungsten Carbide Blades



Metal blade scraper

Description

Blade scraper: A handle with a double edged blade attached to the end.

Blade types: Tungsten Carbide blades and steel blades.

Use

For scraping out and removing old glue, paint polyurethane etc. from the edges and corners.

Care

Keep clean and dry. Replace Tungsten Carbide blades when they lose their edge as sharpening Tungsten Carbide is difficult. Because it is so hard diamond abrasive technology is needed for sharpening. Steel blades can be sharpened with a metal file or a bench grinding wheel.

Storage

Keep the blade clean, dry and free from rust. Store safe and tidily in your tool box.

Hand scrapers (push)



Description

Hand scraper: A handle with a removable thin blade attached to the end.

Telescopic scraper: A large adjustable handle with a removable blade attached to the end.

Use

For scraping out and removing old glue, paint, polyurethane, lumps of plaster etc. from a substrate.

Care

Replace blades when they lose their edge. Avoid chipping the blade by not hitting nail heads and screws etc. Keep the head of the scraper clean. If old adhesive and dust is allowed to build up around the screws and the cover plate that holds the blade to the frame, then the blade may work loose and the screw heads may get damaged.

Storage

Clean down blades and scraper before storing. Store safe and tidily in your tool box. To avoid injury, blades can be covered, removed or reversed with the sharp edge facing into the tool.

Brooms



Push Broom



Hand brush



Shovel (Dust pan)

Description

Push Broom/hand brush: A cleaning tool that has bristles/brushes attached to a frame. Different sizes and types are available for either indoor or outdoor use. Bristles range from soft to hard.

Use

Pushing forward, a broom removes the loose dust and rubbish off a flooring surface.

A hand brush is used to clean out the edges and corners of a room.

It is also used to sweep the loose dust and rubbish onto the shovel so it can be removed from the area.

Care

Keep clean, dry and free from wet adhesive and wet resurfacing compounds.

Do not lean on a broom as the bristles bend out of shape and the handle may break or the joint become weakened.

Always name or mark your broom as other sub trades tend to help themselves to the first broom they see on a work site.

Storage

Keep brooms stored on a rack or shelf in your work vehicle. Do not store on the floor of a van, or in a place where the handle may break or the bristles will get squashed.

Hand brushes can be stored neatly in your tool box where the brushes will not get squashed.

Wrecking bars



Moulding lifter



Super bar

Description

A moulding lifter is a hardened metal tool shaped similar to a "shepherd's crook". It is designed with slim ends to fit in behind what ever you are removing.

Use

For uplifting, prying up materials e.g. naplok bars, carpet gripper, removing nails, skirtings etc.

Care

Keep clean and dry. Immediately remove any nails that may get jammed in the claws.

Storage

Store safe and tidily in your tool box.

Screw drivers



Common screw head types

Description

Screw drivers are available in many different sizes along with different end shapes to suit the screw head types.

Use

Used for tightening and loosening screws.

Care

To prevent damage to your screw drivers do not use them for chiselling, scraping, punching nails etc. Hitting with a hammer will damage the handle.

The tip should always fit neatly into the slot of the screw head. If the tip is not a neat fit the screw head will become damaged making it difficult or impossible to remove.

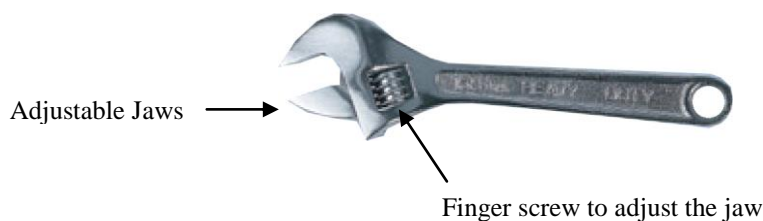
Do not keep a screw driver in your pocket as you may seriously injure yourself.

Storage

Store safe and tidily in your tool box or in a purpose designed case.

Keep them together so they are easy to find when you need them.

Adjustable spanner



Description

Adjustable spanners have a separate adjustable jaw to suit different sized bolts and nut heads. The sizes available range from 100mm to 300mm.

Use

Used for tightening and loosening nuts, or holding a bolt head so the nut can be removed.

Care

Always place the solid section of the adjustable spanner in a position that it will take the load when force is applied.

Use the right sized adjustable spanner for the job to avoid the adjustable spanner from slipping and causing injury, or damaging the nut or bolt.

Storage

Store safe and tidily in your tool box.

Keep clean and free of rust.

Keep the moving parts of the adjustable spanner lubricated very sparingly with a light oil.

Did you know?

An Adjustable spanner is also known as the Crescent. An adjustable spanner made by the Crescent Tool Company in the USA early in the 1900's become so popular the tool become known as the Crescent. The Crescent is now a trade mark of the Apex Tool Group.

Pliers



Adjustable jaw pliers



Combination Needle nose pliers



Description

Pliers have a hinged serrated jaw to apply pressure and grip. They come in various shapes and sizes for many different tasks.

Use

Used for holding or tightening. Useful in flooring particularly for prying out staples.

Care

Use the right type of pliers for the job. Using pliers that are not suitable for the job may result in the pliers slipping and/or causing damage or injury.

Storage

Store safe and tidily in your tool box.
Keep clean and free of rust.
For pliers with a fixed hinge such as the long nose type, the hinge may now and then need lubricating very sparingly with a light oil.

Nail punch



Different sized tips

Description

A nail punch is hardened steel forged into a 3 piece shape; the head that takes hammer impact, the middle with a hand grip, and a fine cupped tip to suit the nail head. The tips vary between 0.08mm to 3.2mm.

Use

A hammer is used to hit the nail punch and drive nail heads or staples below a wood surface.

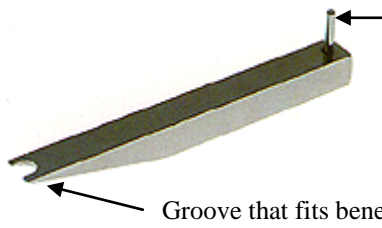
Care

To avoid damaging the punch or the surrounding wood, keep the nail punch in line with the nail it is about to punch.

Storage

Store safe and tidily in your tool box.
Replace if the tip gets damaged or becomes unevenly worn.

Door pin remover



From beneath the hinge first tap up the door pin

Groove that fits beneath the head of the door pin

Description

A door pin remover is solid steel with a pin that juts out at one end and a groove at the other end.

Use

Remove the door pin by first tapping from beneath the door hinge. Using the groove end fit the tool beneath the head of the door pin and tap upwards with a hammer.

Care

Use the tool for what it is designed for, do not use the pin end as a nail punch. Be very careful not to damage the door pin, door frame or hinge.

Storage

Store safe and tidily in your tool box. Keep it clean and free of rust.

Spirit Level



Description

A thick metal straight edge with small clear sealed tubes that are part filled with liquid. When placed on a surface a bubble will appear in the sealed tube. When the bubble sits exactly between the two set marks the surface is level.

Use

For finding a true level of a surface or a vertical line. Used when checking the levels of substrates, preparing level access showers, setting levels for levelling compounds, setting out for vinyl wall cladding installations etc.

Care

Keep the edge clean so it will sit true on a surface. Take care not to damage the liquid tubes.

Storage

Store in a safe place. Do not store on the floor of a van, or in a place where the tubes will get broken.

Setting out tools

Measuring tape



Description

A measuring tape houses a spring loaded flexible metal blade with measurements written on it. When the blade is extended it can be locked into place so measurements can be read. The end has a metal hook that slides so measurements can be taken by placing the end against something e.g. a skirting, or hooking over the end e.g. a finishing trim bar.

Use

Used for measuring rooms, floor coverings, finishing trims, stair nosings etc.

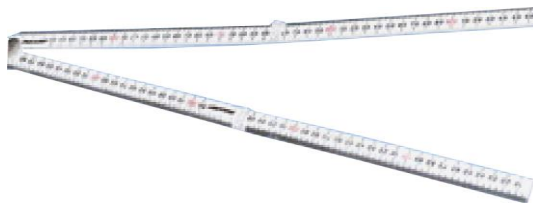
Care

When measuring keep the blade straight, bending the blade on itself can damage the blade. Keep away from wet adhesive. Retract the blade slowly when finished so you do not cut your fingers with the blade or break off the hook. If the hook gets damaged/bent or jams so it is not able to move then measuring will not be accurate. Replace your tape measure if the blade splits, the spring is broken, or the hook is damaged or bent.

Storage

Keep in your tool box. Do not store your measuring tape if the blade gets wet. Dry off the blade before letting it return to the housing.

Folding rule



Description

A folding rule is made of plastic or wood. The ruler shows measurements of millimetres, centimetres and is one metre in length.

Use

Used for measuring small lengths e.g. coving heights, finishing trims, small areas etc.

Care

Folding rulers are very delicate. Always keep it folded when not in use and do not leave it on the floor where it may get stood on and break. If you wear overalls keep it in the pouch provided.

Storage

Keep it clean and store neatly in a place in your tool box where it is readily available.

Steel rule



Description

A steel rule is a thin metal ruler that shows measurements.

Use

Used for measuring tricky areas, cutting or drawing straight edges on sheet vinyl, cutting vinyl tiles, marking out a paper pattern, repair work, cutting through polyurethane when repairing timber flooring etc.,

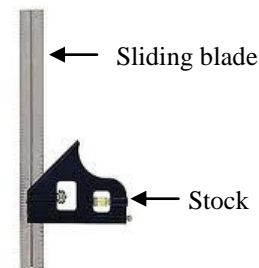
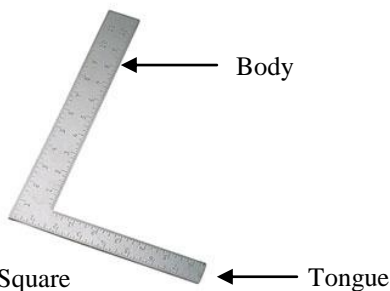
Care

Do not bend the blade. If used for cutting a straight line with a knife take extreme care that the knife does not slip across the ruler and cut your fingers.

Storage

Keep clean and dry. Store it neatly in a place in your tool box where it is easily found.

Square



Combination square

Description

Framing Square: An "L" shaped metal rule which creates a right angle (90°). Each blade is a different length. The shorter is the tongue and the longer is the body. Measurements are stamped into each blade.

Combination square: A square that has an adjustable blade that slides through a stock. It can be adjusted to create a 90° right angle and a 45° mitre or line.

Use

Framing Square: Used by builders to make sure frames, cabinets etc. are square. For flooring they are useful for marking out right angles when working with tiles/planks or cutting lengths of flooring material with a square edge.

Combination square: Useful for marking square or mitred angles when cutting metal trims, stair nosings, timber/laminate planks etc.

Also when checking or setting the depth of rebates if needed when installing timber flooring, or setting a depth for resurfacing compounds against a tile edge where different thickness floor coverings are joining to it.

Care

Do not bend the blades or damage the edge of the blades. Keep clean and dry so measurements are easily read.

Storage

Store flat so the blade does not bend out of shape. If it does not fit in your tool box have a place in the van where it can be easily found.

Straight edge



Small 18" flexible straight edge with a 45 Degree angle end.



Large 72" or 6' straight edge.



T Square straight edge

Description

A Straightedge is a metal rule with a true straight edge. They are available in various sizes, shapes, metal types and metal hardness.

Use

Small flexible straight edge: Used when marking a paper pattern, cutting 45 degree mitres, straight edging materials, double cutting seams, hand routing vinyl joins for thermo welding etc.

Large Straight edge: Used when cutting lengths, straight edges on materials and/or marking out set-out lines on a substrate.

Care

Do not bend the blade. Keep it clean and dry so it does not rust. Angled edge straight edges are very sharp; to avoid an injury be careful when using or storing it.

Storage

Keep it clean and dry. Store flat to prevent the blade from bending out of shape and store in a place where the edge will not get damaged.

Chalk line



Description

String wound inside a casing that is filled with powdered chalk. Replacement powder is available in different colours.

Use

Used for creating a straight line on a substrate for an installation set out i.e. tiles, planks, sheet vinyl etc. The string is pulled tight between two points. At the midway point the string is then lifted and allowed to snap back leaving a chalked line on the surface. This line can then be pencilled onto the floor using a straight edge.

Do not use or leave a chalked line on surfaces that are to have light coloured vinyls installed as the chalk colour may eventually bleed through to the top surface of the vinyl.

Care

Keep dry and the container filled with chalk. Do not refill a chalk line over floor coverings as any spilt chalk may cause staining. Also, if any chalk is spilt on the substrate it should be cleaned up immediately. If not the chalk may get walked onto other floor coverings that are about the area; or in the case of a vinyl installation the chalk colour may eventually bleed through to the top surface of a vinyl.

Storage

Keep dry. Store the line and refill bottle safely in your tool box so the bottle will not get damaged and/or the chalk will not spill. Make sure they are both readily available.

String line



Description

String wound onto a core.
Available in 50 metre to
100metre lengths.

Use

Used to help to keep patterns straight when installing carpet. Also for creating a long straight line on a substrate when setting out flooring installations where a chalk line is not long enough. The string is pulled tight between two points. A mark with a pencil can be made beneath the line at various points. A chalk line can then be used between the marks to create one complete line. This line can then be pencilled in.

Care

Keep tightly wound up when not in use. This will help to stop the line from tangling and knotting.

Storage

Keep dry. Store neatly in a place in your tool box where it is readily available and will not get tangled or caught up with other tools.

Timber flooring tools

Hand planes



Smoothing plane



Block plane

Description

Smoothing plane: A tool that has a smooth flat metal bottom surface with a sharp blade slightly jutting out on an angle. It has a handle at the back and knob at the front so both hands can be used to push it forward.

Block plane: Smaller than a smoothing plane and is used with one hand.

Use

Smoothing plane: Used to shave timber joins or surfaces. Longer Jack and Jointer planes are also available for straightening shorter edges of timber.

Block plane: Used for taking the sharp corner (arris) off a timber edge. This is called chamfering. A block plane is ideal for smoothing the rough edge of a board underlay or to shave down the tongue if needed on a T&G profile of a solid timber length or a engineered timber plank.

Care

Keep clean and remove any shavings that may get caught between the blade and the bottom surface.

Always keep a sharp edge on the blade. Now and then a small amount of light oil on a rag can be wiped on the steel blade to prevent it from rusting. Also a drop of light oil to the thread of the adjusting screw will prevent it from seizing up.

Take care not to drop planes as they are made of cast iron metal which can easily break.

Storage

Keep dry and free from rust. Store neatly and securely where they can be easily found.

Rasp



Description

A rasp has sharp edged hardened steel grooves. They are available in various grades of coarseness and with or without handles.

Use

Like a cheese grater it grates off any rough edges from a timber board or a board underlay.

The pointed edge of a rasp can also be used to clean out T&G grooves.

Care

Keep the steel grooves clean.

Storage

Keep dry and free from rust. Store tidily in your tool box.

Hand saws



Panel saw



Tenon saw

Description

Panel saw: A long thin flexible metal blade attached to a handle. Sharp teeth are serrated into the bottom edge. Each tooth of a hand saw is bent opposite to each other from the blade. The teeth are sharpened from the front so it cuts when pushed forward. On the back stroke it releases the dust that collects between the teeth.

Tenon saw: A smaller blade that has many fine small teeth. It has a thick metal band at the top of the blade to help keep the blade firm for straight cutting.

Use

Panel saw: Used for cutting timber or sheet materials such as board under lays. The larger the teeth the faster and rougher the cut edge will be as the teeth rip through the board or timber.

Tenon saw: Used for finer straight cutting and mitre cutting with a mitre box. With the correct thickness spacer they can be used to under cut door frames for timber flooring. When cutting engineered timber cutting from the back can provide a cleaner cut at the top surface.

Care

Keep saws clean and dry. Tighten handles if they become loose. When the blades become blunt the saw can be taken to a professional saw sharpener to sharpen the blade. Be mindful of what you are cutting and what you are cutting on. If the teeth come into contact with metal or concrete when cutting the teeth will instantly become blunt.

Now and then a small amount of light oil on a rag can be wiped on the steel blade to prevent it from rusting.

Storage

Keep dry and free from rust. Store neatly and securely where they can be easily found. Use a protective blade cover when have you finished using the saw.

Did you know?

Tempering and hardening is a method of controlled heating and cooling steel to increase its hardness. The steel used to make hand tools like chisels need to be hard to keep their cutting edge sharp.

Chisels



Description

A chisel is a tool with a thick hardened steel blade attached to a handle made of a hard plastic.

The cutting end of the blade is ground and sharpened. Widths available vary from 6mm to 50mm.

Use

Chisels are more of a carpenter or joiner tool however they are useful for flooring e.g. for cutting out tricky shapes when installing board underlay, levelling out and removing old adhesive, polyurethane from the corners of wooden floors, installing wooden flooring etc.

Care

Keep clean and free from rust. A sharp edge can be kept with a sharpening stone. Grind with a bench grinding wheel If the edge chips.

Storage

Store safe and tidily in your tool box. Keep the sharp edge covered to prevent injury.

Tapping tools



Tapping block



Pulling bar

Description

Tapping block: A plastic block with a handle attached.

Pulling bar: A flat metal bar with each end bent into an opposing hook.

Use

Tapping block: Used when joining together certain profiled engineered timber, laminate and solid timber planks. Depending on the profile the tapping block is designed to tap the planks together without damaging the top surface and joining profile of the plank.

Pulling bar: Used to tap or pull together the last plank that is up against the edge of an area i.e. wall or door jamb.

Care

Keep the edges smooth and free from damage. If the edges become damaged they may damage the profile or the top surface of the plank.

Storage

Store in a safe place where the edges will not get damaged.

Resilient flooring scribing tools

Dividers



Description

Dividers are a metal tool with a pair of adjustable legs that have pins or a sharp pointed end.

Use

Used to scribe vinyl or vinyl/cork tiles to the shape of a room i.e. scribing walls, toilet pans, curves, circles, arcs, paper patterns, internal/ external mitres etc.

Care

Keep clean and maintain sharp pins or points for accurate and clear scribing. Pins can be sharpened by placing the pin in a high speed drill and sharpened on the edge of a sharpening stone.

Storage

Keep dry and free from rust. Store neatly in a place in your tool box where they are easily found and you will not injure yourself when getting them.

Pin vice



Description

A pin vice is a tool with a pin at one end and a handle at the other.

Use

Used to scribe a fine mark on a floor covering for cutting i.e. timber/laminate and vinyl flooring. When using the overlap method for cutting vinyl tiles a fine mark can be scribed then cut. For vinyl repair or inset work, a pre cut shape can be scribed around then the shape accurately cut out of the floor covering

Care

Keep clean and maintain a sharp pin for accurate and clear scribing.

The pin can be sharpened by placing it in a high speed drill and sharpened on the edge of a sharpening stone.

Storage

Keep dry and free from rust. Store neatly in a place in your tool box where it is easily found and you will not injure yourself when getting it.

Outside corner scriber



Description

An outside corner scriber has a sharp scribing pin fixed at the end of the tool and an adjustable bar that sits over the pin. The excess flooring material to be cut off fits between the bar end and pin. The bar end butts against an outside corner of the cove (external mitre). When the tool is moved along the outside corner, the pin scribes a mark on the flooring material.

Use

Used to scribe a mark that represents a flush finish on the outside corner or edge of a vinyl/linoleum external boot mitre, or a flush finish on the outside edge of a vinyl/linoleum bench top.

Care

Keep clean and maintain a sharp pin for accurate and clear scribing.

Pins can be sharpened by placing the pin in a high speed drill and sharpened on the edge of a sharpening stone.

Safety vinyls with metal filings blunt pins very quickly. Keep a separate pin for these types of floor coverings.

Storage

Keep dry and free from rust. Store neatly in a safe place in your tool box where it can be easily found.

Bar scriber



Description

A bar scriber has an adjustable scribing pin that moves along a fixed bar. The end of the bar is used to gauge the distance between it and the scribing pin.

Use

Used to scribe a mark that is parallel to a skirting/wall. Used for scribing commercial vinyl/linoleum or board underlay for timber floor preparation.

Care

Keep clean and maintain a sharp pin for accurate and clear scribing.

When using a bar scriber, always place it on its side between tasks. Do not leave it sitting directly on a floor where the sharp scribing pin will get damaged.

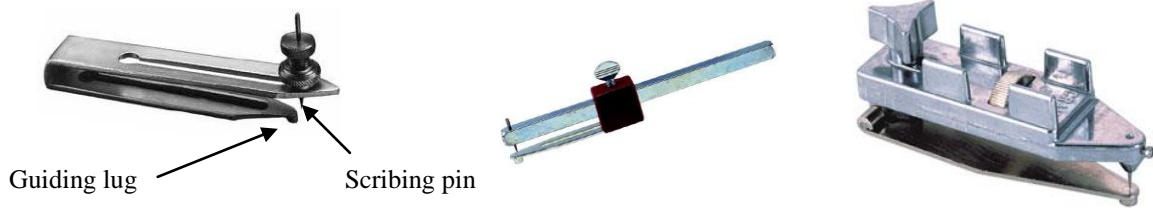
Pins can be sharpened by placing the pin in a high speed drill and sharpened on the edge of a sharpening stone.

Safety vinyls with metal filings blunt pins very quickly. Keep a separate pin for these types of floor coverings.

Storage

Keep dry and free from rust. Store neatly in your tool box. Retract the pin so it will not be damaged or cause injury. Do not over tighten the brass bush that holds the pin as it is a soft metal and is damaged easily.

Recess scribe



Description

A recess scribe is like a corner scribe but is designed slightly different. Beneath the recess scribe is a lug that is used as a guide when seaming vinyl/linoleum sheet flooring. The scribing pin can be adjusted to scribe a tight or loose fit. They are available in various shapes and forms.

Use

Used mainly to scribe a mark to cut a tight seam or a slightly loose seam for thermo welding. Because it is similar in design to an outside corner scribe it can be used for those tasks also i.e. scribing a flush finish on the outside edge of a vinyl/linoleum external boot mitre or a bench top.

Care

Keep clean and maintain a sharp pin for accurate and clear scribing.

Pins can be sharpened by placing the pin in a high speed drill and sharpened on the edge of a sharpening stone.

Safety vinyls with metal filings blunt pins very quickly. Keep a separate pin for these types of floor coverings.

Storage

Keep dry and free from rust. Store neatly in a safe place in your tool box where they can be easily found.

Vinyl Seam Roller



Description

A seam roller has a polished steel roller that rides on ball bearings and is attached to a handle. They are available with either a short or long handle. The steel roller is available with either a square or round edge

Use

A seam roller is used on vinyl/linoleum sheet/tile seams. Applying pressure with a seam roller helps to make sure the seams finish flush and there is a good adhesive transfer between the backing and substrate.

Care

Keep clean. Remove immediately any adhesive that may seep up through the seam on to the roller face.

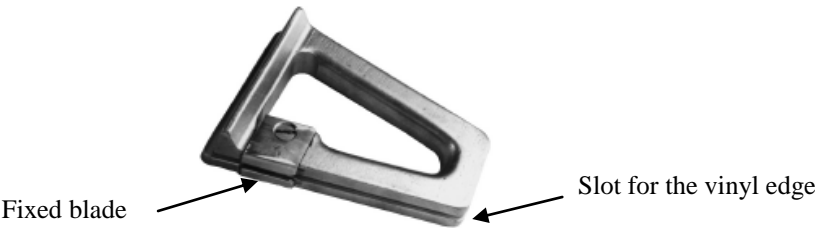
Do not apply too much pressure as the adhesive may get pushed into the sheet forming a lump, or the adhesive may get pushed out of the seam reducing the bond. Too much pressure may also damage the surface of the vinyl.

Storage

Keep dry and free from rust. Store neatly in your tool box.

Vinyl trimming tools

Vinyl edge trimmer



Description

A metal tool with a small fixed blade fitted into a slot.

Use

Used to cut off the manufactured edge of sheet vinyl/linoleum.

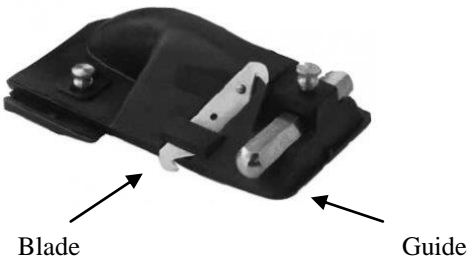
Care

Keep clean and replace the blade when blunt.

Storage

Keep the blade dry and free from rust. Store tidily in your tool box.

Vinyl wall trimmer



Description

A frame with a guide and blade attached.

Use

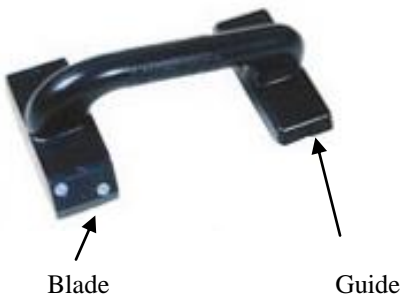
Used to trim flexible vinyl into skirtings and edges.

Care

Keep clean from adhesive and replace the blade when blunt.

Storage

Keep the blade dry and free from rust. Store tidily in your tool box. Cover or retract the blade during storing



Vinyl welding tools

Welding trimming knife



Knife pouch

Description	Use	Care	Storage
A Quarter Moon shaped blade fixed to a handle.	Used for trimming weld rod flush to the floor when thermo welding a vinyl/linoleum floor covering.	Keep the blade clean and dry. To keep a sharp edge, sharpen <u>one side only</u> using a sharpening stone. When using it on safety vinyl that has metal filings through it the blade will lose its edge very quickly. Have a separate knife for both Normal vinyl and Safety vinyl.	Keep the blade dry and free from rust. Store safe and tidily in your tool box or with the welding kit. Use a knife pouch to keep the edge protected at all times.

Welding accessories



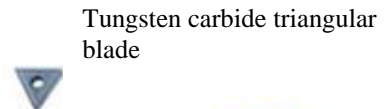
Exacto tools



Exacto blades



P Groover



Tungsten carbide triangular blade



V Groover

Description	Use	Care	Storage
Exacto tool: A handle with a releasable sleeve that can hold different shaped blades.	Exacto tool: Is used for trimming PVC weld rod flush to the vinyl surfaces. Different shaped blades allows trimming to both external and internal mitres.	The Exacto blades: Use a file or bench grinder to keep the edge sharp.	Keep the blade dry and free from rust. Store safe and tidily in your tool box or with the welding kit.
P Groover: A handle with a 'u shaped' blade attached at the end.	P Groover: Cuts a groove into the seam of commercial vinyl/linoleum. The groove is slightly smaller than the weld rod that is to be thermo welded into it.	Groovers: Replace the blades when the sharp edge is lost. Blades that are made of Tungsten carbide need diamond abrasive technology to sharpen.	
V groover: A handle with a 'triangular shaped' Tungsten carbide blade attached at the end.	V Groover: A "V" shaped Tungsten carbide cutting blade also cuts a groove into a seam before thermo welding weld rod into it.		

Did you know?

Triangular flat bladed paint scrapers are not ideally suited for grooving as they gouge a groove rather than cut a groove. Chip vinyls, heterogeneous vinyls and linoleum because of the way they are made, need a cut groove to produce a well bonded weld with clean straight lined edges

Knives

Knives (Fixed blades)



Carpet knife



Combination knife



Knife pouch



Linoleum knife

Description

Knives designed for flooring that have their blades fixed into the handle.

Use

Carpet knife: Used for cutting carpet. There are available many sizes and blade shapes of carpet knives. The long thin curved blade is well suited for cutting between piles of tufted carpets, cutting from the back of carpets around door jambs, corners etc. cutting down the weft and warp of woven carpets.

Combination knife: Used for carpet, vinyl/linoleum and board underlay. Handy for tucking carpet into tight edges i.e. tiles, wooden floor edges.

Linoleum knife: Originally designed for linoleum, also used on commercial vinyl. Not so commonly used today.

Care

Keep clean and dry. Keep blade sharp by using a sharpening stone. Continual sharpening hardens the blade and lengthens the life of the sharp edge.

Storage

Keep the blade dry and free from rust. Store safe and tidily in your tool box or tool pouch where it is easy to get at.

Knives (Replaceable blades)



Delphin Utility knife



Crain Utility knife



Craft knife



Hook blades



Straight blades



Snap off blade

Description

Knives used for flooring. The blades used can be replaced.

Use

Utility knife: Used for cutting vinyl, pattern paper, underlay and carpet. There are many brands of utility knives available e.g. Delphin, Shark, Stanley etc. The blades used in these knives are replaceable. Straight blades can have the edge sharpened with a sharpening stone to help extend the life of the blade.

Blade types: Straight blades are all purpose blades. Hook blades are often used for cutting through commercial vinyl/linoleum after they have been first scored with a straight blade.

Craft knife: Sometimes referred to as a breakaway knife as the blade is designed to be snapped off at a marked point to produce a new sharp edge. If you use a craft knife ***always immediately and safely get rid of the broken off blade i.e. put it in an old sealable blade container.***

Care

Keep clean and dry. Always keep a sharp edge. Injury by cuts tends to be with a blunt blade. Throw your knife out and replace it whenever the knife blade becomes sloppy in the handle or if the knife has a retractable blade that is not working properly.

When cutting pattern paper lift the edge slightly and cut the paper only; cutting paper directly on the floor will unnecessarily blunt the blade.

Storage

Keep the blade dry and free from rust. Store knives neatly in a place in your tool box where they are easily found and where you will not cut yourself when you pick them up.

Pouches are also available for safe storage.

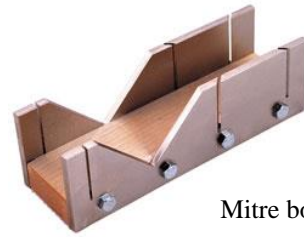
Avoid unnecessary injuries by '**never storing a craft knife or retractable knife in your pocket**'.

Cutting/Mitre tools

Hack saw



Hack saw



Mitre box

Description

A hacksaw has a metal frame that holds a replaceable blade. The blade tension can be tightened to stop the blade from twisting.

Mitre box: A boxed frame with slots cut to guide a saw blade. Slot Angles are at 45°, 90° and 135° (° = degrees).

Use

Used to cut metal or plastic e.g. naplock bars, door bars, stair nosings, coving fillet etc.

Mitre box: To help accurately guide a saw cut to a square or mitred finish.

Care

Keep clean and replace blade when blunt. Check before cutting the blade is straight, tensioned and around the correct way.

Mitre box: Clean after use to remove any left over filings from the cut material.

Storage

Keep the blade dry and free from rust. Store tidily in your tool box where the blade will not get damaged.

Mitre box: Store tidily in your tool box.

Strip cutters



Strip cutters



Tin snips

Description

Strip cutter: A heavy duty hinged scissor. A foot at the tail helps it to sit stable on the floor while cutting. The blades are replaceable.

Tin snips: A heavy duty scissor action tool with long handles for heavy leverage. The blades are fixed.

Use

Strip cutter: Used to cut carpet gripper.

Tin snips: Designed for cutting thin sheet metal. Used by some flooring installers to cut naplock bars and carpet gripper.

Care

Strip cutter: Keep clean and replace blades when blunt. Place the blade between the pins to avoid damaging the blades. Lubricate hinged parts with a light penetrating oil when necessary.

Tin snips: Keep clean and sharpen blades when blunt. Place the blade between the pins to avoid damaging the blades when cutting carpet gripper.

Storage

Strip cutter: Keep dry and free from rust. Store tidily in your tool box. When not in use, lock the jaws together to avoid injury or damage to the blades.

Tin snips: Keep dry and free from rust. Store tidily in your tool box. When not in use, lock the jaws together to avoid injury or damage to the blades.

Hammers



Rim tempered claw hammer



Magnetic tack hammer



White rubber mallet

Description

Claw hammer: A claw hammer has a hardened steel head which is fitted to a handle made of either wood or metal. The head has one end that is used for striking and the other end with a claw that is used for prising out nails. Claw hammers are available in different sizes, shapes, metal type (for use with concrete nails) and weights.

Magnetic tack hammer: A magnetic hammer has a thin steel head with one end used for striking and the other with a magnetic tip for picking up nails.

White rubber mallet: A white rubber mallet has a large double sided head made of white rubber.

Use

Claw hammer: A claw hammer is used for nailing carpet gripper strips, bars, punching in nails/staples, concrete nails etc. Concrete nails are extremely hard therefore a hammer with a high quality metal finish head should be used. Always hit accurately and with confidence. Do not use glancing blows. Use a spacer to protect skirtings when nailing down carpet gripper strips.

Magnetic tack hammer: A magnetic tack hammer was traditionally used when carpet was attached by tacks. The magnetic tip is useful for first picking up the nail and lightly tapping it into the naplock bar or strip. Once the nail is able to stand by itself the steel head is then used to drive the nail into the floor.

White rubber mallet: A white rubber mallet can be used to tap down and close naplock bars. Tapping should be even so no unsightly dents in the bar can be seen.

Care

Claw hammer: Keep it clean. If the head gets dirty use a steelo pad to clean it. Do not use coarse sand paper as it might change the shape of the head. Replace if the head becomes dented, worn, chipped or loose. To avoid serious injury never use a hammer with a loose or damaged handle.

Magnetic tack hammer: Do not use the magnetic end for striking nails. Keep it clean and replace if the head becomes worn, chipped or dented.

White rubber mallet: Keep clean and do not use on sharp edges that may damage the rubber. Hit directly and not across to prevent the rubber from marking the bar.

Storage

Keep all hammers dry and free from rust. Store tidily in your tool box.

Adhesive tools



Trowel handle



Replaceable blade



Fixed blade trowel



Notched spatula

Description

Notched trowels: A notched trowel is an adhesive spreading blade with a handle. The blades are either fixed to the handle or are replaceable. The notches are made in different shapes and sizes. The bigger the notch the more adhesive will be spread on the floor.

Notched spatula: A notched spatula is a small thin end notched blade attached to a handle.

Use

Notched trowel: A notched trowel is used for spreading adhesive on a floor.

Notched spatula: For spreading adhesive on coved up-stands/walls or tricky areas.

Care

Keep the blade and notches clean of any old dried out adhesive. Old dried out adhesive that is stuck in the notches will reduce the adhesive spread rate of the trowel. Also, any lumps of hard adhesive trapped in the notches may get dragged into new adhesive the next time you use the trowel. With a vinyl installation any old hard lumps of adhesive may show through as little pimples.

Water based adhesive is best removed by soaking the blade in a bucket/tray of water while it is still wet and then wiping it clean with a wet cloth. Leaving a trowel on the side of the adhesive drum while working will allow the adhesive to dry and clog the notches.



Cleaning dried out adhesive off trowels with a scraper can increase the risk of a nasty injury if the scraper slips off the trowel blade during cleaning.

When the notches have worn replace the blade, file the existing notches or re-notch the blades using a notching tool.

Storage

Store dry and clean in your tool box or in a shelf /rack in your van.

Storing trowels on the floor of the van or on top of the rubbish may result in the trowel being thrown out with the rubbish, or the handle getting broken.

Carpet tools

Driving bar



Description

A long thick heavy curved metal bar with a handle at one end and a magnet fixed to it at the other end.

Use

Used to nail strips of carpet gripper under toe kicks and wall heaters etc.

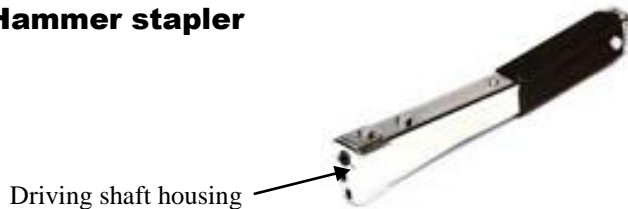
Care

Keep clean and free from rust.

Storage

Store tidily in your tool box. Keep the magnetic end away from metal.

Hammer stapler



Description

A Hammer stapler is a long square framed metal tool with a handle at one end and the staple housing head at the other. It is designed to staple into timber substrates by hitting the head onto the floor. The bigger the impact the faster the staple is driven in.

Use

Used to staple underlay to timber substrates.

Care

Regularly check all securing nuts and tighten as necessary. Now and again, apply a light oil to the driving shaft housing.

Storage

Store tidily in your tool box. Keep the staples in tidy order in a box/container.

Carpet row finder



Description

A carpet row finder is a long thin metal tool with a fine point on one end and a ducks bill at the other end.

Use

Used to separate the row of a carpet pile so the carpet can be cut between the row. The pointed end is used for cut pile carpet and the duck bill end for loop pile carpet.

Care

Keep clean and dry. Do not use it as a nail punch as it is made of soft metal and is easily damaged.

Storage

Keep clean and store neatly in a place in your tool box where it can be easily found.

Pile cutters



Loop pile cutter



Cushion back cutter

Description

Loop pile cutter: A thin metal frame attached to a bottom plate. The blades fit in side a guide that runs between the row of a carpet pile. The bottom plate protects the blades from the substrate.

Cushion back cutter: Similar to the loop pile cutter except it does not have a bottom plate.

Use

Loop pile cutter: Used to cut carpet between the looped piles when preparing a carpet seam.

Cushion back cutter: Although designed for foam backed carpets it can also be used to cut between the piles of both traditional loop and cut pile carpets. Because there is no bottom plate a cutting board should be placed beneath the carpet to stop the blade from becoming blunt on a concrete substrate, or the blade from falling in and following any joins in a timber substrate. The bottom guide can also run beside a straight edge and used to cut carpet to a straight edge.

Care

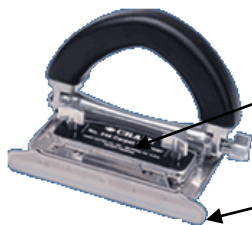
Keep clean and replace blades when they become blunt. Blunt blades will rip rather than cut causing damage to the backing. This may result in a seam failure at a later stage.

Remove any carpet yarn that may get caught between the blades and guide.

Storage

Keep dry and free from rust. Store tidily in your tool box. Cover or retract any blades that may jut out of the trimmer.

Carpet trimmers



Carpet trimmer

Adjustable shims

Adjustable frame

Removable plastic guard



Multi-purpose wall trimmer

Description

Carpet trimmer: A handle attached to a frame. Thin pieces of metal (shims) can be added or taken out to adjust for different thickness carpets. Blades sit between the frame and a guide that runs against the wall/skirting.

Multi-purpose wall trimmer: A handle attached to an adjustable frame. The blades jut out on an angle below a guide that runs against the wall/skirting.

Use

Carpet trimmer: Used to trim carpet for conventional installation method. The shims can be adjusted for different thickness carpets. The thin edged guard can also be used to tuck the carpet between the skirting and Carpet gripper/smoothege.

Multi-purpose wall trimmer: Used to trim vinyl and for direct stick carpet installation method. The frame can be adjusted for carpets that are different in thickness.

Care

Keep clean and replace the blades when blunt. Remove any carpet yarn that may get caught between the blades and guide.

Replace the plastic guard when worn to avoid marking the paint on walls/skirtings.

Storage

Keep dry and free from rust. Store tidily in your tool box. Cover or retract any blades that may jut out of a trimmer.

Carpet tucking tools



Stair tool



Nylon tucker



Wheel tucker

Description

Stair tool: An alloy steel flat bladed tool with a handle that is designed to be hit with a hammer. Available in various shapes and sizes.

Nylon tucker: A light nylon flat bladed tool with a handle.

Wheel tucker: A frame plus handle with thin wheels running parallel with the frame. The wheels are available in nylon and metal.

Use

Stair tool: Used to fit carpet to stairs by forcing the carpet tight between the carpet gripper in the tread/riser joint. The head of the stair tool can be tapped with a rubber mallet. A stair tool can also be used to attach carpet to the carpet gripper and tuck the carpet after it has been trimmed. Do not use too much force as the carpet may puncture.

A stair tool is also very useful for vinyl work. With a damp rag wrapped around it, a stair tool can be used for tasks like rubbing down edges forming vinyl into coves etc.

Nylon tucker: Used to attach carpet on to the carpet gripper and also tuck the carpet after it has been trimmed. Nylon has the advantage over metal as it does not mark the paint when tucking the carpet between the carpet gripper and skirting.

Wheel tucker: For tucking carpet.

Care

Stair tool: Keep clean and dry.

Do not use as a floor scraper or to chip away concrete. If the edge becomes chipped or scratched it may cause damage to any future carpet or vinyl work.

Nylon tucker: May wear down on the carpet gripper pins. Replace when worn.

Wheel tucker: Replace the wheels if they wear down or start to damage the skirting.

Storage

Store tidily in your tool box.

Carpet shears



Napping shears



Duck bill Napping shears



Carpet shears

Description

Napping shears: Are a heavy pair of scissors bent at the handle so the blades can cut on the flat surface of carpet.

Duck bill napping shears: Also bent at the handle, have a duck billed blade to make sure cutting is flat and even.

Carpet shears: Are a heavy larger pair of scissors without the bent handles.

Use

Napping shears: Are used to nap off any loose piles in the carpet and on carpet seams.

Duck bill napping shears: Also used to nap off any loose piles in the carpet and on carpet seams. The duck bill shape is designed not to gouge into the carpet seam when trimming.

Carpet shears: Are used to cut both loop and cut pile carpet edges in preparation for seaming. Shears allow good control when cutting joins and make a nice clean cut through the backing.

Care

Remove any carpet yarn that may get caught between the blades. Keep the blades sharp using an oil stone; only sharpen the angled edge. Tighten the scissor joint if it becomes loose. Use only on carpet.

With carpet shears some installers prefer to blunt or round the tip of the top blade to prevent it from hooking into the pile.

Storage

Keep dry and free from rust. Store tidily in your tool box.

Seam rollers



Porcupine roller



Smooth roller



Ribbed roller

Description

A carpet seam roller is a handle attached to a frame that contains an axle with either spiked wheels, smooth wheels or ribbed wheels. Seam rollers are available in many shapes and forms.

Use

Used when seaming carpets. Pressure is applied through the pile to push the carpets backing into the hot melt or wet adhesive.

Porcupine rollers are very harsh and **should not be used** on finer plush or velvet cut pile carpets. Using porcupine rollers on these types of carpets can burst and distort the pile causing permanent damage to the carpet.

Care

Remove any carpet yarn that may get caught between the rollers or frame.

Storage

Keep clean and store neatly in a place in your tool box where it is easily found.

Carpet accessories



Needle



Thread



Tip for No. 145
Applicator Bottle

Description

Curved carpet needle and thread.

Applicator bottle: A plastic bottle with a removable tip for controlling the application of the liquid seam sealer.

Use

Needle and thread: The carpet needle and thread was once the traditional method in joining carpets before tufted carpets were produced. They are still useful for repair work, sowing mitres on bottom curved stairs etc. Carpet needles can also be used to repair damaged or missing tufts in carpet by sowing carpet yarn into the primary backing.

Applicator bottle: Applies a controlled amount of seam sealer to the cut edge of carpet. The reason for applying seam sealer is to seal together the primary and secondary backings, and also to bond the tufts in between both backings.

Care

Needle and thread: Discard needles when blunt and keep the thread wound tightly on the roll.

Applicator bottle: Check before using that the end is not blocked. Do not over squeeze the bottle if the sealer does not come out; remove the tip and unblock. Replace when the tip is worn.

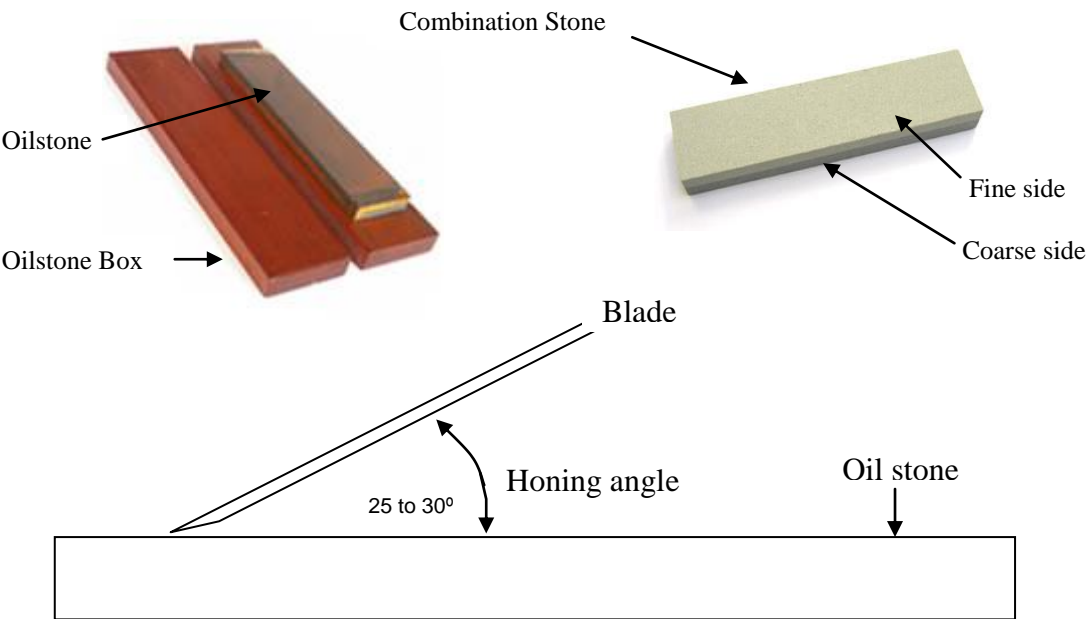
Storage

Needle and thread: Keep in a small container.

Applicator bottle Keep the tip plugged close, the bottle upright and secured so the bottle does not fall over and leak.

Sharpening tools

Oilstones



Description

Oilstones are available in fine, medium and coarse grades.

Combination stones usually have one side fine and the other medium or coarse.

Use

Used for honing a sharp edge on knives, welding knives, chisels, scribing pins, plane blades etc.

If you just want to fine up or maintain an edge use the fine side. If more rubbing is required start with the medium/course side first.

To keep the wear on the stone even, tools should be sharpened in a sliding rotary motion over the whole surface of the stone. The factory grinding angle is usually at 25°. The suggested honing angle is 5° greater. As you start a line will appear. Continue honing until the line is no longer visible leaving a "white edge". You may need to hold the blade to the light to look for this.

If or when a thin burred/fury edge appears and the white edge disappears turn the blade over completely flat to the stone and rub three or four times up and down to remove the edge. Do not lift or angle the blade as you are sharpening.

A light lubricating oil should be used during honing to float away any loose metal particles.

When sharpening scribing pins place the pins in a battery drill and sharpen on the side edge of a stone.

Care

The surface should be kept clean and moist by applying a few drops of very light lubricating oil after use.

Avoid the surface from glazing up by wiping with a cloth with kerosene to remove any dirty oil and any metal particles that are left after sharpening.

Oil stones break very easily so take care not to drop it.

Storage

Oilstones should be kept in a covered box.

Keep in a safe place where they will not fall and break.

Files



Flat mill file



Triangular mill file

Description

A file has sharp edged hardened steel grooves. They are available in various grades of coarseness.

Use

Used to file off metal edges e.g. for sharpening metal blade floor pull scrapers, taking sharp edges off stair nosings, metal trims etc.

The triangular file can also be used to clean out and open up similar shaped notches in an adhesive trowel.

Care

Keep steel grooves clean and dry.

Storage

Store tidily in your tool box.

Safety gear

Knee pads



Description

Padding shaped to fit knees. Available in many types of designs and protection e.g. plastic, foam, rubber padding etc.

Use

Used to protect knees. Do not have the straps too tight as your circulation will be cut off, and your knees may become sweaty. This will not only be uncomfortable but could also cause problems with your knees.

Care

Do not kneel in wet adhesive or surface repairing compounds. Old residue may cause future damage to any floor covering surface you will be working on. Knee pads with hard plastic protection can become scratched and course when working on concrete surfaces. If this happens do not work on soft vinyl surfaces as the surface may get damaged.

Replace knee pads when they are not effective.

Storage

Keep together and store in a place where they are easily found.

Ear protection



Description

Ear muffs also known as ear defenders are designed to cover the ears. They are available in different grades.

Use

Used to protect from hearing loss. Hearing loss happens gradually and is often a result of long term exposure to noise created from tools and machinery used in a work environment.

Care

Keep muffs clean. Protect any of the soft parts so they do not get damaged. Replace earmuffs when they are not working properly.

Storage

Keep your ear muffs with your gear so they are ready to use when needed. Storage should be in a place where they will not get broken or become dirty.

Eye protection



Description

Safety glasses are designed to protect your eyes. They are also available with side protection.

Use

Used to protect against eye damage that may happen from flying debris when doing a task. For example hammering carpet gripper, chipping or hand grinding concrete, when using a circular saw etc.

Care

Keep the glasses clean. Protect the lenses from getting scratched. Replace if the lenses become damaged or if the view is not clear.

Storage

Keep your safety glasses with your gear so they are ready to use when needed. Storage should be in a place where they will not get damaged and the lenses scratched.

Respiratory protection



Disposable nuisance masks

Dual purpose mask

Full face mask

Note: always choose a mask and filters that is made for the type of work you are about to

Description	Use	Care	Storage
<p>Disposable nuisance mask: A strap on throw away face mask made of a special filter paper.</p>	<p>Disposable masks: Provides limited protection against low levels of dust e.g. sweeping floors, cutting wood flooring products etc. They are not made for toxic/solvent fumes.</p>	<p>Disposable masks: Throw away masks when the filter is dirty and/or shows signs of breaking down.</p>	<p>Disposable Masks: Keep these masks in their plastic bag or box. Keep them dry, away from toxic products/fumes and in a place where they will not get crushed or damaged.</p>
<p>Dual purpose mask: An adjustable face mask with replaceable filters. The filters may be designed for dual purposes e.g. filtering out dust and toxic /solvent fumes.</p>	<p>Dual purpose masks: Allow for a higher level of protection from particles and/or toxic fumes e.g. floor sanding/grinding and application of some solvent based products.</p>	<p>Dual purpose masks and Full face masks: Always keep clean. Clean mask with a mild detergent, dry it completely and keep it in a sealed bag or container. Inspect all rubber parts for any signs of breaking down i.e. mouthpiece valves, head bands etc.</p>	<p>Dual purpose masks and Full face masks: Store safely away from toxic products. Keep dry, in a cool place and in a sealed bag or container</p>
<p>Full face mask: A complete face mask that protects against breathing in toxic/solvent fumes.</p>	<p>Full face masks: Filter out solvent/toxic fumes. As solvent entry to the body is also through the eyes, face masks provide more protection than dual filter masks e.g. moisture cured polyurethanes, solvent based adhesives etc.</p>	<p>Do not clean filters. Use the recommended filters for the type of work you are doing.</p> <p>Replace filters when their recommended life expectancy is reached or as soon as fumes are noticeable.</p>	

