



Nail Guns

SafeTips from the Naval Safety Center

Quick and easy summaries to find out about something new you're doing or as a refresher for something you haven't done in a while. They're a great training tool to pass around at meetings, through e-mail, or post on bulletin boards.

As with most labor-saving devices, nail guns decrease the amount of labor while increasing risk. The tool's ability to fire several nails per second at a velocity of more than 1,000 feet per second presents obvious hazards. Every year, some 37,000 people go to American emergency rooms with injuries from nail guns, according to the U.S. Centers for Disease Control (CDC). Sixty percent of these injuries occur on a job site; forty percent occur at home. One study of construction workers in three states showed that two-thirds of all nail-gun injuries happen because someone bypasses or disables a safety device (such as a bumper or trigger safety).

1. Read the operator's manual and follow the manufacturer's specifications.
2. Use the "sequential-trip trigger" mode, which requires that you press the gun against the wood and then press the trigger. You then have to re-

lease the trigger and press it again. A faster but more dangerous technique is when you press the trigger before you touch the wood with the nail gun; you can then fire a nail each time you touch the gun to the wood. According to the CDC, the sequential-trip-trigger mode would prevent two-thirds of all injuries caused by the other method.

3. Wear sturdy clothing, heavy shoes or boots, eye protection and hearing protection.
4. Air hoses can present a tripping hazard. Know where they are, especially if you are working above ground level.
5. of your footing and stay balanced. Don't reach too far.
6. Never point a nail gun at a person.
7. As with a firearm, always assume the nail gun is loaded and ready to fire.
8. Don't let children handle nail guns.

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Naval Safety Center
375 A Street
Norfolk, VA 23511-4399

Contact the Media Division
(757) 444-3520 ext. 7870
safe-mediafdbk@navy.mil



9. Keep the air supply hose away from heat, oil and sharp edges.
10. Don't use nail guns on scaffolds, ladders or other structures.
11. Don't use nail guns on thin boards or near corners or edges. If you do, you run the risk of firing a nail through the material and damaging something or creating a personnel hazard.
12. Disconnect the nail gun from the air supply when:
 - ☞ Clearing jams, making adjustments, or clearing jams.
 - ☞ You aren't using the nail gun or you are leaving it unattended.
 - ☞ Moving to another work area.
 - ☞ Passing the air nail gun to someone else.

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