

H&S Manager: Wesley Jameson

Date Approved: Sept 2026

Safe use of Knives

Knives are used for approved cutting tasks. Cuts and puncture injuries can result from incorrect grip, damaged blades, cutting towards the body, poor storage or distraction.



Personal Protective Equipment



Cut 5 Gloves



Steel toe capped
boots



Hi-vis Clothing



Goggles/ Faceshield

FAILURE TO WEAR EYE PROTECTION MAY RESULT IN DISCIPLINARY ACTION

Potential Hazards

- Cuts and puncture wounds
- Blade breakage
- Cutting towards the body
- Poor grip or uncontrolled movement
- Dropped or exposed blades
- Incorrect disposal of blades

Before Use

- Inspect the handle, blade before use.
- Do not use loose, damaged, blunt or improvised blades.
- Ensure the material is stable and the cut can be controlled.
- Keep the work area clear and well lit.
- Identify where the cut will finish and keep the free hand outside the cutting path.
- Use suitable cut-resistant gloves where required by the task risk assessment.
- **Faulty or damaged knives must NOT be used.**

During use

- Always cut away from your body and keep the free hand out of the blade path.
- Maintain a firm grip and controlled movement; never use excessive force.
- Never use a knife as a screwdriver, lever or other unintended tool.
- Do not walk around with an exposed blade; close/retract it before moving.
- Never attempt to catch a falling knife.
- Keep others clear of the cutting area.
- If the blade becomes stuck, stop and reposition the work safely.

After Use

- Retract, close or sheath the blade immediately after use.
- Dispose of damaged or used blades in the designated sharps/blade container.
- Do not leave knives exposed on benches, machinery or in waste.
- Inspect the knife before storage and report damage.
- Store knives securely in the designated location.
- Clean the work area and remove waste safely

Emergency Procedures

- For any significant cut or puncture wound, stop work and seek First Aid immediately.
- For severe bleeding, apply direct pressure where appropriate and raise the alarm.
- Report all accidents, near misses and unsafe equipment to your supervisor.
- For blade breakage or another unsafe event, stop work and make the area safe before continuing.

Safe Operating Rules

- ✓ Cut away from the body
- ✓ Keep your free hand outside the blades path.
- ✓ Use the correct knife.
- ✓ After use store in designated area.
- ✓ Never use a damaged knife

Competency Sign off Form



Report all accidents, injuries and near misses to your supervisor / H&S. You can also scan the QR codes below.

