



**Safety
Short**

POWDER ACTUATED TOOLS

Prepare Yourself



INTRODUCTION

The information provided in this document can be used as a reference to ensure all necessary safety precautions are being taken before using a powder actuated tool.

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General Safety Principles

- Allow only trained, competent, and authorized persons who are familiar with the regulations and safe work procedures covering the use of the tool to operate powder-actuated tools (also known as explosive-actuated fastening tools).
- Powder-actuated tools operate like loaded guns. Handle powder-actuated tools with the same respect and safety precautions as guns.
- Use the manufacturer's information as a guide for the safe operation and maintenance of the tool.
- Wear safety glasses or goggles, or a face shield (with safety glasses or goggles) and a hard hat.
- Wear hearing protection.
- Always brace yourself when working on ladders or scaffolds to maintain good balance.
- Keep tools pointed in a safe direction. Never point powder-actuated tools at anyone.
- Load powder-actuated tools just before use. Do not carry loaded tools from job to job.
- Do not leave loaded powder-actuated tools unattended.
- Do not allow bystanders near the work. Shields for protecting workers against a possible ricochet may be necessary in the working area.



Proper Service and Care

- Clean and maintain tools according to the manufacturer's instructions.
- Check tools before use to ensure they are in good working order.
- Tag defective tools "Out of service" and remove from service until properly repaired.
- Store tools and cartridges in a locked container when they are not in use.
- Ensure that the tool is unloaded before storing it.



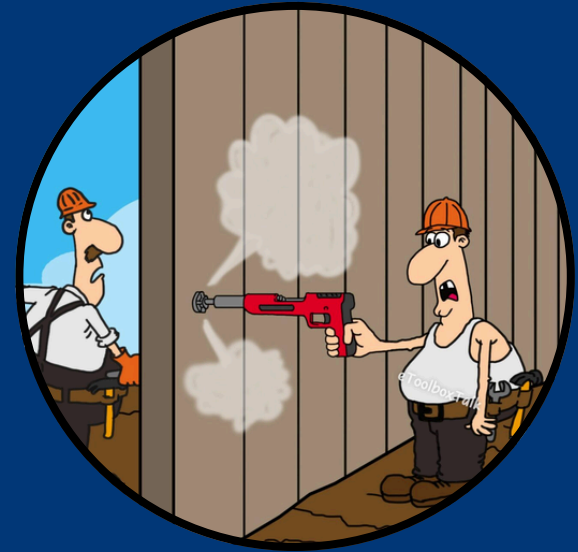
Tips for Safe Use

- Use the tool at the proper angle when pointing at work surface.
- Check the chamber to ensure the barrel is clean and free from any obstruction, before using the tool.
- Do not use the tool where flammable or explosive vapors, dust or similar substances are present.
- Do not place your hand over the front (muzzle) end of a loaded tool.



Projectile Safety (fasteners, nails, studs, etc.)?


- Use only the projectiles (fasteners, nails, studs, etc.) recommended by the tool manufacturer.
- Ensure the base material has no holes or openings and is consistent enough to prevent a projectile from passing right through.
- Do not load a tool until immediate use is intended.
- Do not force a projectile into a working surface that is harder than the projectile being used.



Proper Cartridge Storage and Use

- Use only cartridges recommended by the tool manufacturer.
- Ensure the color of the cartridge is appropriate for the work being done. (Charge cartridges are color-coded based upon their strength.)
- Provide adequate ventilation in confined spaces where powder-actuated tools are used.
- Hold the tool in the fixing position for at least 5 to 15 seconds when a tool misfires. Keep the tool pointed in a direction that will not cause injury to you or others and unload a cartridge with extreme caution.
- Use caution when using tools near live electrical circuits. Make sure that the projectile (nail, stud, etc.) do not enter live circuits buried or hidden in the base material.
- Keep cartridges locked up when not in use.
- Do not attempt to force a cartridge into a tool.
- Do not discard unfired cartridges carelessly.
- Keep misfired cartridges in secured containers until they are properly disposed
- Do not carry cartridges loose or in a pocket. Carry them in the manufacturer's package

Powder Load Identification

POWER LEVEL	LOAD COLOR	LOWER COLOR  HIGHER COLOR
1	GRAY	
2	BROWN	
3	GREEN	
4	YELLOW	
5	RED	
6	PURPLE	