

Powder-Actuated Tools

Powder-actuated tools are used to make forced-entry fastenings in various construction materials. Although the tools are relatively easy to use, they do present significant exposure to the operator and others in the general area of operation. Safe operating procedures should be formulated for the use of powder-actuated tools and should include the following:

- Only employees who have been specifically trained in the operations of the powder-actuated tool should be permitted to operate it. All training should be documented and retained in the employee's personnel file.
 - The tool should be tested each day before loading to see that all safety devices are in proper working order. The method of testing should be in accordance with the tool manufacturer's recommended procedures.
 - Any tool found to be not in good working order, or if a defect develops during use, should be immediately removed from service and not used until properly repaired.
 - Personal protective equipment (eye, ear, head protectors) should be provided for and utilized by all tool operators.
 - Tools should not be loaded until just prior to the intended firing time. Neither loaded nor empty tools should be pointed at any employees. The operator should keep his hands clear of the open barrel end at all times.
- Loaded tools should not be left unattended.
 - Fasteners should not be driven into very hard or brittle materials, such as cast iron, glazed tile, surface-hardened steel, glass block, live rock, face brick, or hollow tile.
 - Driving into materials easily penetrated should be avoided unless such materials are backed by a substance that will prevent the pin or fastener from passing completely through and creating a flying missile hazard on the other side.
 - Fasteners should not be driven into a spalled area caused by an unsatisfactory fastening.
 - Tools should not be used in explosive or flammable atmospheres.
 - All tools should be used with the correct shield, guard, or attachment recommended by the manufacturer.
 - Powder-actuated tools should meet all other applicable requirements of the American National Standards Institute (ANSI) A10.3 - 1970, "Safety Requirements for Explosive-Actuated Fastening Tools".

The loss prevention information and advice presented in this brochure are intended only to advise our insureds and their managers of a variety of methods and strategies based on generally accepted safe practices, for controlling potentially loss producing situations commonly occurring in business premises and/or operations. They are not intended to warrant that all potential hazards or conditions have been evaluated or can be controlled. They are not intended as an offer to write insurance coverage for such conditions or exposures, or to imply that Great American Insurance Company will write such coverage. The liability of Great American Insurance Company is limited to the specific terms, limits and conditions of the insurance policies issued.