

SAFE USE OF UTILITY KNIVES

Utility and precision (e.g. X-acto) knives are very useful tools for a variety of tasks. Safe work practices must be followed when using these tools to avoid injury and/or damage to property. These simple tools are frequently misused and result in injury or damage to property.

Safety Tips

- Determine if you are using the right tool for the job. There are many different types of blades and utility knives for different purposes. In some cases, a completely different tool may be more appropriate. For example, a hose cutter is a better option when compared to a knife when cutting hose. A saw may be more appropriate for cutting thick material.
- Always inspect the tool before using it. The blade must be sharp.
- Wear safety glasses when using a cutting tool. The blade may brake and fly away from the work surface.
- Use the knife as it was intended. Don't use it to pry or turn screws.
- Use a straight edge when attempting to cut a straight line.
- When positioning and using the knife, ensure the cutting path is not in the direction of your body or other hand.
- Rest the workpiece on a firm and stable surface, never on your lap or in the palm of your hand.
- Utilize clamps when possible to hold the workpiece instead of your hands.
- Consider using cut resistant gloves for added protection.
- Keep the blade covered when not in use or when in storage.
- Discard used blades in an appropriate container.
- Always store and transport knives with the blade retracted fully or with a guard in place.
- Consider self-retracting utility knives to minimize the chance of accidentally cutting yourself.



Video

- **OFLA:** Safety Knife 101(<https://bit.ly/1QoP8IW>)

Examples of Alternative Knives

- <https://www.mure-peyrot.com/us/knife/grepin/>
- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=sHphTFXXvTs>
- https://olfa.com/professional/products/?filter_product-type=safety/