

# **GENERAL SAFETY TIPS WHEN USING LANDSCAPE TOOLS**

## **<sup>1</sup>Tool Selection/Maintenance**

- Select the tool that is most suitable for you to do the task safely.
- Inspect your tools daily - make sure that tools are in good repair.
- Ensure all guards for your equipment are in place, and are properly maintained.
- Ensure that handles are tight and fastened securely. Repair or replace worn or damaged handles; ensure that the handle surfaces are smooth and splinter-free.
- Keep cutting tools and equipment sharp. Dull tools are more hazardous than sharp ones.
- Protect the cutting edges of the tools and equipment. Store tools and equipment, especially if they are transported regularly from job to job, in a way that prevents the cutting edges from being dulled or damaged.
- Label damaged tools and remove them from the work site. Notify your teacher of any damaged tools.

## **Tool Use:**

- Keep a secure footing and your balance when using tools.
- Use tools on a stable work surface. Use a vice or clamps to stabilize your work if necessary.
- Work in a well-lit area.
- Direct saw blades, knives, etc. away from walk-ways and from students working nearby.
- Avoid standing in awkward positions. Avoid unnecessary strains on your wrists, arms, shoulders and/or back from poorly designed tools.
- Give yourself enough space to work and keep your body at a comfortable angle to the work. Adjust the tool position or the angle of the work surface to minimize bending, reaching or twisting.
- Carry tools properly.
- Use a tool belt, but don't make it too heavy causing strain on your lower back and hips. Carry only what is necessary for that particular task.

## **Tool Storage:**

- Put tools away when the job is finished; removing dirt and ensuring they are dry will help prevent tools from rusting.
- Store tools and equipment in a safe, organized manner so that students can access them easily and without injury.
- While tools are not in use, place them where other students cannot be hurt by them (for example, do not leave rakes on the ground with the tines pointing up; do not leave tools on a ladder or scaffold).

**AT ALL TIMES – IF IN DOUBT, SEE YOUR INSTRUCTOR**

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<sup>1</sup> Adapted from [http://www.ccohs.ca/oshanswers/safety\\_haz/landscaping/general.html#\\_1\\_2](http://www.ccohs.ca/oshanswers/safety_haz/landscaping/general.html#_1_2)