



GAS-ACTUATED FASTENING TOOL SAFETY

Tool Box Talk



When used properly, gas-actuated tools, which use gas instead of powder to drive a fastener into concrete or steel, can help improve safety and increase productivity where their powder-actuated counterparts may not be suited. Minimize injuries by taking advantage of training programs provided by tool manufacturers and user safety awareness.

Tips for general handling

- Clean and maintain tools according to the manufacturers' instructions
- Only those trained in the use of gas-actuated fastening tools (or under direct supervision by a trained operator) should use this equipment
- Load the tool just prior to firing
- Never carry a loaded fastening tool, except when it cannot be unloaded because of mechanical failure
- If the fastening tool has been loaded but is not used immediately, remove both the gas canister and the fastener
- Do not leave loaded tools unattended
- Inspect tool for damage and check that all controls operate properly—do not operate the tool when parts are damaged
- Stay alert—do not use the tool while you are tired or under the influence of drugs, alcohol or medication
- Do not use the tool where there is a risk of fire or explosion
- Before beginning work, check the working area to ensure no concealed electric cables or gas and water pipes are present

Tips for maintenance and storage

- Always remove the gas can and empty the magazine before changing the magazine; before cleaning, servicing or maintenance work on the tool; before storage or transport; and before leaving the setting tool unattended
- After use, lay the tool flat on the floor — when mounted on a pole tool extension and left leaning against a wall, a risk of injury is presented, as it may fall over
- Never attempt to remedy tool malfunctions by continuing to trigger the tool
- Always wear gloves if you have to carry out maintenance work on the setting tool while it is still hot

Tips for operation

- Ensure all operators and bystanders have proper eye protection and other required PPE
- Use hearing protection when driving fasteners in enclosed areas that intensify noise levels
- Select the correct combination of fastener guide and fastener
- Follow the instructions supplied on the gas can and with the tool, along with any other accompanying information
- Hold the setting tool only by the insulated grip when working in areas where fasteners may be driven inadvertently into concealed electrical cables
- Hold the tool perpendicular to the work surface when fastening
- Never point the setting tool toward yourself or any other person
- Keep your arms flexed when operating the tool (do not straighten arms)
- Do not attempt to drive fasteners into materials that are too hard, such as welded steel or cast steel
- Do not attempt to drive fasteners into materials that are too soft, such as wood or drywall/gypsum board
- Before driving fasteners, check that there is no risk of injuring anyone or damaging objects present behind or below the working surface
- If the setting tool overheats, remove the gas can and allow the tool to cool down—do not exceed the specified maximum fastener driving rate

Tips for fastening

- Never drive more than one fastener in the workspace, as this may lead to the breakage or jamming of fasteners
- Never attempt to re-drive a previously driven stud or nail—re-use of a fastener may cause it to break, thereby presenting a risk of injury

