

Pneumatic Tool Safety Precautions and Maintenance Tips

Tools that are powered by compressed air are used around the clock in almost every industry, making it critical that all employees are aware of safe pneumatic tool practices and how to properly maintain them. Any defect or failure in a worker's pneumatic nailer, sander, buffer or spray gun can lead to serious injury, increased downtime and loss of production.

The best way to prevent these occurrences is to follow pneumatic tool maintenance best practices like these:



Step 1: **Always** **Disconnect Tool** **from Air Supply** **When Not in Use**

Always disconnect tool from the air supply before doing tool maintenance, or clearing a jammed fastener.

After safely disconnecting from air supply source, make sure there are no fasteners left in the tool and never inspect the tool when it is still connected to its air supply!



Step 2: **Complete Visual** **Inspection** **of Tool**

Before beginning each day, be sure to inspect the tool in its entirety. Make sure all screws and caps are securely tightened at all times.

Make daily inspections for free movement of trigger and safety element. Never use the tool if parts are missing, damaged or leaking air.



Step 3: **Operating Air** **Pressure &** **Volume**

Do not exceed recommended maximum operating pressure as tool wear will be greatly increased. The air supply must be capable of maintaining the operating pressure at the tool.

Air volume is as important as air pressure. The air volume supplied to the tool may be inadequate because of undersize fittings and hoses, or from the effects of dirt and water in the system.

Restricted air flow will prevent the tool from receiving an adequate volume of air, even though the pressure reading is high. The results will be slow operation, misfeeds or reduced driving power.

Before evaluating tool problems for these symptoms, trace the air supply from the tool to the supply source for restrictions that would prevent full volume flow of air to the tool.



Step 4: Check Lines and Compressor for Moisture

Constant flux in air temperature and condensation throughout the compressor and lines is a leading cause of tool failure and can freeze exhaust points or result in rust build-up on the tool's metal components. Moisture can degrade seals and O-rings causing premature equipment failure. The best way to avoid this is to eliminate moisture with an after-cooler and air dryer and lubricate with the correct oil regularly.



Step 5: Lubricate Pneumatic Tools Regularly

Moisture, debris, and rust can destroy the individual parts of your tool, causing premature wear and lowered performance. To extend the life of your pneumatic tool and promote better performance, lubricate your tools often.

We recommended adding oil into the air fitting of the tool once or twice a day. Only a few drops of oil at a time is necessary and will lubricate the internal parts. Too much oil will only collect inside the tool and will be noticeable in the exhaust cycle.

Do not use detergent oil or additives as these lubricants will cause increased wear to the seals and bumpers in the tool, resulting in poor tool performance and frequent tool maintenance.

For cold weather operation, near and below freezing, the moisture in the air line may freeze and prevent tool operation. We recommend the use of permanent antifreeze (ethylene glycol) as a cold weather lubricant.



Step 6: Clean Tools at End of Day

Disconnect the pneumatic tool from its air supply before cleaning and inspecting the tool at the end of each shift. After thoroughly inspecting the tool and making sure it is free of dirt, grime, debris or saw dust, lubricate accordingly. Not only will this ensure longer tool life, but these steps are critical to the safety of the next shift worker.

To schedule an on-site consultation for your pneumatic tool program or set up regular service, please give us a call at: **800-513-9918**

or contact your local LINC Systems representative.