

# Knives, Box Cutters, and Other Sharps

Quarterly Edition – Summer 2023

The retail industry incurred over 404,000 accidents in 2021. Some of the most common and preventable injuries found are cuts and lacerations. These retail workplace hazards are often the result of improper training, failure to use necessary personal protective equipment, a failure to follow established safety procedures, and employees who are in a hurry and take shortcuts.

The most common concern when using sharp blades or edges is an injury, such as a cut (laceration, puncture) or an amputation.

### Tools or equipment with sharp blades or edges can include:

- knives and other utensils
- box cutters, utility knives, safety cutters
- scissors
- equipment with blades or moving parts, such as food processors, mixers, and meat grinders
- glasses, dishes, etc., especially when broken or chipped
- food wrap container blades, cans that have been opened razor blades



### To prevent cuts:

- Use tools only for the job they were designed for.
- Purchase auto-retractable blade utility knives or ones with guards
- Inspect the tool before use.
- Make sure the blade is sharp. Dull blades require more force, increasing the chance of injury.
- Work in a well-lit space so you can see what you are doing.
- Cut on a stable surface. Use a cutting board and/or slip-resistant matting to prevent the item from sliding on the counter.
- Use protective clothing such as cut resistant or mesh gloves, especially for the holding hand.
- Cut away from your body. Make sure no body parts are in the cutting path, or in the path the blade might take if it slips.
- If the tool has a retractable blade, retract it immediately after use, and retract it fully.
- Store tools appropriately.
- Do not use excessive pressure when cutting.
- Do not try to catch a falling tool. Quickly move out of the way, let it fall, and then pick it up

## SAFETY TRAINING

### TOPICS:

[Kitchen Knife Safety](#)

[Utility Knife Safety  
\(Retail\)](#)

*Click on Each Title to  
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