Blade & Sharp Object Safety

Safety Tips

As a student, you may be exposed to working with sharp objects, like knives, saws, or blades. It is important to use safety measures to protect yourself from any physical harm.

Remember it is vital that you are careful and to always follow these simple rules:

Always:

- Wear safety glasses when using utility knives. Blades can snap off unexpectedly.
- Wear cut resistant gloves when using blades/knives to avoid getting slashed or cut, and puncture resistant gloves when using sharp, pointed items.
- Use sharp blades. Dull blades are a safety hazard, requiring more force to make the cut, which can lead to tool slippage.
- Always cut away from the body and face, making several passes when cutting thicker materials.
- When using sharp objects, stay focused. Distraction can be dangerous!
- Make sure blades are fitted properly into the knife.
- Make sure to cap the sharp object and when finished, place it into a solid container (like one made with plastic).
- Always use a puncture proof container to dispose of blades. Yellow containers are available in certain studios and shops. If none are immediately available, use a substitute container (glass or plastic). Make sure to label substitute containers as "Sharp Objects" before giving them to the building's maintenance staff for recycling.

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Never:

- Never leave a blade unattended, especially with the blade exposed.
- Never cut items with a blade or other sharp object on your lap.
- Never carry a cutting utensil by the blade to avoid cutting your fingers.
- Never use a blade without a holder.
- Never pass a blade to another person by tossing it; hand it over carefully by the handle and with the blade down or if possible, retracted.
- Never try to catch a blade or cutting tool that is falling.

Please contact your shop technician or Katherine Perkins (perkinsk@newschool.edu), Environmental Health & Safety Office of Facilities Management, if you have any questions about the information on this sheet.

For more information on any health issue, contact Wellness and Health Promotion, Student Health Services, wellness@newschool.edu or 212.229.1671, option 4.

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