15 Tips for Using Utility Knives Safely

Box cutters and utility knives are among the most used tools at work. They are typically small, lightweight and inexpensive – making them ideal portable tools. Unfortunately, the same characteristics that make these tools practical also make them susceptible to unsafe use and storage.

- 1. Always cut away from your body and others
- 2. Keep fingers, thumbs, opposite hand and body away from the path of cutting
- 3. Keep retractable blades short to reduce potential for deeper cuts or breakage
- 4. Wear cut-resistant gloves
- 5. Never use a dull blade which requires more effort and can result in slipping
- 6. Hold the box/object with one hand and the box cutter firmly in the other and cut with a deliberate motion
- 7. Position the box/object horizontally in relation to the body, keeping cutting strokes horizontal
- 8. When cutting through thick material, make several passes cutting a little deeper into the material with each pass
- 9. Do not use blades to pry an object open, blades can easily snap
- 10. Always retract or cover the blade when not in use
- 11. If the knife slips and falls to the ground, don't attempt to
 - catch it
- 12. Be patient and maintain focus on your blade and body position
- 13. When replacing a blade, pull from the dull side
- 14. Dispose of old blades properly
- 15. If a blade accident occurs and blood is spilled, isolate the area immediately and call for help



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