

## NAIL GUNS

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Nail guns use compressed air or a small flammable charge to shoot a nail into the medium to be nailed. They are efficient tools to quickly accomplish repetitive nailing tasks. Used properly, they save labor and money. Improper or unsafe usage can result in severe injury or death.

Most nail guns today require two actions to fire the gun. The most common is the trigger must be pulled and the nose pressed into the medium to be nailed. The two-action nail guns are safer, if somewhat slower, than the older single action guns. However, accidents occur far too often and with very severe results. Commonly, nails are inadvertently driven into the body of the operator or a nearby coworker. Nails can also go completely through unsubstantial medium, causing injury or damage on the other side.

Abiding by these safety recommendations can greatly reduce the risk of nail gun use:

- Never use a defective nail gun, or one with a safety mechanism disabled for speed.
- Do not move around with the trigger held down. Release the trigger before changing position.
- Do not point the nail gun at yourself or others.
- Do not use a gun in a congested area and watch out for other workers near you.
- Do not steady the job with your hands or feet before nailing.
- Never try to nail beyond your reach. Take the time to line up each nail properly.
- Never rest the gun against any part of your body or cradle it against your body while moving around.

When using nail guns around ammunition or explosives, extra care should be taken. Only compressed air powered nail guns should be used. Nail guns powered by flammable gas or powder charge should not be used at all. Care should be taken that the nails are properly placed and they do not go through the wood. Fatal accidents have resulted from nails being driven into crate contents.

Nail guns are useful tools. They increase productivity and reduce repetitive motion injuries. But they must be handled with extreme care, especially in an ammunition area.

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Questions/Comments: [Explosives Safety Bulletin](#)