

Safety Precautions

Wear approved protective gear such as hard hats, safety shoes, goggles and face shields. **Do not alter or remove any safety features.**

Read and understand the safety labels that are bonded to the air tool. Do not attempt to remove these safety labels; they are there for your protection and safety and that of others.

Check that the air throttle is operating correctly and that chisel retainers are not worn out. Faulty or badly worn chuck bushings and pistons are a primary cause of excessive shank wear and destruction of the striking end of the tool.

Misuse is dangerous. Tools and their accessories should be only used for those purposes they were designed for. If there are any questions regarding the proper usage, contact the AMERICAN PNEUMATIC TOOL Customer Service Department.

Start your work with reduced air pressure and avoid burying the tool. Tools that are ran without the tool bit against the workpiece are subject to a building up of stresses and may damage the tool. Always use a firm and steady pressure when running an air tool. Using any air tool as a lever or prying instrument is dangerous and will cause tool damage.

Safety Information

Prior to using any pneumatic tool, the operator must read and understand the operating and safety instructions provided with each tool. The operator should be verbally instructed by their supervisor on safe operating practices when working with pneumatic tools. Personnel should be aware of any local safety requirements.

Eye, Face, and Body Protection

Eye protection must be worn at all times when using any air tool. Any debris large or small can become a dangerous projectile. All visitors or other personnel in the immediate area where an air tool is being used must also wear eye and ear protection. Eye protectors must meet the following requirements:

- Provide adequate protection against hazards for which they are designed
- Be reasonably comfortable when worn under the designated condition
- Fit snugly without interfering with the movements or the vision of the wearer
- Be durable
- Be capable of being disinfected and cleaned
- Be kept in good working condition

Impact resistant face protection should be used in situations where there is exposure to debris from tool operation or when deemed necessary. Impact resistant face protection should be worn over the eye protection and is not intended to take the place of eye protection.

Safety shoes and/or steel toe shoes must be worn at all times by anyone operating pneumatic tools and by anyone in the immediate area.

Safety hard hats must be worn at all times by anyone operating air tools, particularly when doing overhead work or by anyone in the immediate area.

Loose fitting clothing or jewelry of any type must not be worn when operating air tools.

Ear protection should be worn at all times when operating pneumatic tools.

TOOL MAINTENANCE AND OPERATION All APT tools must be inspected to make sure they are working correctly prior to operation. All components must be checked to make sure they are tight and there are no missing or damaged parts. **DO NOT** turn the tool towards your body or towards anyone else. **ALWAYS** work with the tool firmly pointed to the workface. Operation of the tool without the impact being applied to the workface may result in injury and will also damage the tool. **NEVER** adjust, remove, repair or store pneumatic tools without disconnecting the air supply and relieving the hose of air pressure. Never change tool steel or any accessories without disconnecting the air supply first. **NEVER** leave an idle tool connected to an air supply to prevent accidental actuation. The air supply must be turned off at the source or at the air compressor. Keep all spectators away from the work area. If there must be spectators, they must be kept at a safe distance from the workplace where pneumatic tools are being operated. **ALWAYS** inspect the tool steel carefully for cracks or damage. **NEVER** operate pneumatic equipment with damaged tool steel. Be sure that the steel is properly sharpened. Consult your tool steel catalog for proper selection of tool steel for the application. **DO NOT** touch tool steel or other air hammer accessories while the tool is working. Wear gloves and make sure rubber handles are in good condition if the tools are fitted with them. **NEVER** attempt to use a pneumatic tool without a chisel retainer. **ALWAYS** inspect retainers for damage or excessive wear and do not use damaged or worn retainers. Check all bolts for proper torques. American Pneumatic Tool suggests the use of air regulators to ensure a recommended air pressure of 90 psi (6.2 bar). **ALWAYS** inspect all air hoses for cracks, worn threads, damaged or loose quick connect couplings in order to prevent injury resulting from a whipping air hose. Look out for excess air hose around the work area to prevent tripping and falling. Ensure proper footing and balance when operating any air tool.

VIBRATION The nature of the work with pneumatic tools can be uncomfortable to the operator. Prolonged use of pneumatic tools may be harmful to your hands and arms. You can minimize vibration by using proper operator technique, correct air pressure (90 psi), sharp steels and anti-vibration tools. American Pneumatic Tool offers ergonomic air hammers designed specifically to reduce harmful vibration to the operator without reducing the power of the tool.

NOISE Prolonged exposure to noise caused by normal operation of pneumatic equipment may lead to hearing disorders. OSHA regulates the maximum sound level to which an operator may be exposed. Hearing protection should be used by anyone operating equipment and anyone being exposed to noise caused by pneumatic equipment. American Pneumatic Tool recommends the use of APT mufflers designed to reduce the noise level of APT tools.

Please take the time to ensure your safety and that of others. It is impossible to cover in this catalog all the possible dangers of operating pneumatic tools, **ALWAYS** use common sense and good judgment. If you have any doubts concerning the safe operation of our tools, please call APT at (800) 532-7402 or 562-204-1555. Please make sure operators read and understand the safety label bonded to every tool, and the safety information supplied with the new tool. Should you require additional copies of the safety information, please contact APT or your distributor. APT also offers a safety manual booklet for the operating and maintenance personnel. Call APT for details. All air tool operators should be properly trained in the safe and efficient use of pneumatic equipment. Any defective or malfunctioning tool should be immediately disconnected from its air supply and returned to APT for repair or to an authorized American Pneumatic Tool service center.



Operating Instructions for Pneumatic Tools

Air Pressure

The recommended air requirement for the operation of APT tools is 90 psi (6.2 bar). Lower air pressure will decrease power, too high a pressure will increase unwanted stresses in the tool. For proper CFM ratings, please refer to the specification charts shown for each tool.

Hose Size

APT recommends the use of at least ½" inside diameter or larger hoses to assure sufficient air flow to the tool. For portable compressor hose and longer lengths, ¾" hose is recommended. Keep the overall length of the hose to a minimum to prevent pressure loss at the tool.

Connecting Hoses

Hoses should be rated for a minimum of 250 psi (17.2 bar). Before connecting the air hose to the tool, check the tool inlet connector to be sure it is clean and free of dirt or debris. Keeping dirt and debris from entering the tool will assure long and satisfactory operation.

Tool Operation

Check the tool and any accessories for damage or loose parts. Make sure all safety devices are fitted correctly and are in good condition. Install the proper accessory steel into the tool. Place the tool steel onto the work surface and hold the tool firmly. Feet should be placed squarely on the ground to maintain balance. Actuate the throttle lever or trigger to operate the tool. Never operate an air tool without the correct size accessory steel properly installed. Keep the accessory steel firmly in contact with the work surface. Do not leave a tool lying idle with the air supply connected. Never point a tool toward anyone or any surrounding objects. To stop operation, release the throttle lever or trigger.

Lubrication of Pneumatic Tools

Oil is the essential element necessary to guarantee maximum tool life and performance. The most significant factor contributing to failure or premature wear of any tool is the lack of lubrication or the use of an improper lubricant. Lack of lubrication will result in overheating of the piston, tappet, rifle bar, etc. Repeated overheating will quickly cause piston failure by either breaking the piston or damaging the cylinder bore. AMERICAN PNEUMATIC TOOLS recommends using a light oil to lubricate its percussion type tools such as chipping hammers, rivet busters, clay and trench diggers, paving breakers, tampers as well as the 9lb and 15lb rock drills. This lightweight oil should be an air tool oil, 10W motor oil, or an equivalent grade ATF fluid. Air tool oil contains rust and oxidation inhibitors which help reduce the negative effects of moisture penetrating the tool by way of the air supply. APT recommends using a lubricant especially formulated for use in the heavier rock drills. Rock drill oil is high viscosity oil, with additives designed to cope with the extreme conditions such as heat, velocity and pressures associated with air tool operation.

Some air tools provided by APT have built-in automatic oil reservoirs. These built in oilers have a capacity of about 1 ½ ounces which provide between 2 to 4 hours of lubrication. The operator must make sure that the oil reservoir is refilled. To be safe, this should be done every 2 hours of operating time.

It is recommended that all APT tools be used with an in- line oiler of sufficient capacity to guarantee 8 hours or more of lubrication supply to the tool. The capacity of these in-line oilers range from 3.7 fluid ounces to 16 fluid ounces. Oilers come equipped with a metering screw inside the reservoir which allows the operator to adjust the oil flow from light to heavy mists of oil. To install an in-line oiler, use a whip hose to place the oiler approximately 8 feet away from the tool. Attach the oiler end to the air supply hose and attach the other end of the whip hose, which is then attached to the tool. Don't forget to install whip checks as an extra safety precaution. (Hose to hose and hose to tool style whip checks are available from APT). Ensure the in-line oiler is installed properly by checking the oil flow indicator arrow on the side of the oiler.

For information on APT in-line oilers ordering information, see the accessories page.