



Fall Protection
for Tools

Fall Protection for Tools Precautionary Checklist

1. Conduct a dropped object risk assessment before performing work where drop hazards may be present.
2. Ask yourself if you need to be doing a job at height.
3. Expand fall protection programs to include tools and equipment, including a “competent person” to manage the extended program.”
4. Consider using tethered tools and closure bags as a primary drop prevention plan.
5. Make sure that any tool that weighs more than five pounds is not tied off to a person.
6. Cover gaps in flooring, openings and grid mesh.
7. Make sure toe boards are capable of withstanding a force of at least 50 pounds in any downward or outward impact.
8. Take into account that something may be dropped or bounced horizontally and not just straight down. Per OSHA, your drop zone must be 1 meter out for every 4 meters up at a minimum. This may need to be extended out as you conduct your risk assessment.
9. Consider regularly scheduled work zone “hazard hunts” to drive awareness of drop hazards.
10. Have secure storage areas onsite to encourage tool check-in when not in use.
11. Secure or tie-down equipment and tools in windy conditions or inclement weather.
12. Have barricading and warning signs in place to protect lower levels and surrounding areas where objects may fall (hard barricades, danger tape and information tags, “work above” signs, spotters, etc.).
13. Communicate with workers and all others on the jobsite to ensure they are aware people are working above.
14. As always, ensure hard hats and head protection are always worn on worksites.