

- 15 If you are drilling through or breaking a wall, ensure that there are no persons or animals on the other side.
- 16 **DO NOT** force the machine, but keep sufficient weight on it to ensure it is cutting or drilling efficiently.
- 17 **DO NOT** use the machine to release a jammed tool or drill bit. Remove the machine from its tool (or bit) and then attempt to extract it from the work surface. Be warned, it is likely to be hot.
- 18 **DO NOT** allow the machine to run on **NO LOAD**. Switch off when the tool is lifted clear of the work surface.
- 19 **CHECK** that the machine is off and cannot be restarted before making adjustments, changing tools or leaving it unattended.
- 20 Vibration from the machine can cause '**VIBRATION WHITE FINGER**' and eventually other damage to hands and arms. Keep your hands warm at all times; gloves can reduce the vibration. If your hands start to feel numb, stop work and exercise your fingers to restore circulation. Limit your time using the machine as much as possible.
- 21 **DO NOT** attempt repairs. Contact the Hire Company.

MACHINES POWERED BY ELECTRICITY

- 22 **CHECK** that the voltage of the supply is correct. The tool will be either 110 volts or 230 volts.
- 23 The use of low voltage tools at 110V (CTE) will effectively eliminate the risk of death and greatly reduce the degree of injury from an electric fault.
- 24 Use tools and equipment with the lowest possible voltage to suit the job.
- 25 **DO NOT** use domestic plugs and sockets on construction sites, they are not robust enough.

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When using 230V tools, the risk of injury or death from electric shock is unacceptably high unless the following precautions are taken:

- a) use RCD power breakers at the supply socket to give protection for both the equipment and its power cable.
- b) the RCD should be protected from dust, wet weather, mechanical damage and vibration.
- c) position power cables where they are less likely to be damaged.
- d) The equipment cables and RCDs should be checked every day (or every shift) using the following as a guide:
 - **CHECK** that bare wires are not visible
 - Make sure that cables are not damaged and free from cuts and abrasions (apart from light scuffing)
 - **CHECK** that the plug is in good condition, the casing is free from cracks, the pins are not bent or the socket is not blocked with debris or dirt
 - **ENSURE** that there are no taped or other non-standard joints in the cable
 - **CHECK** that the cable covering has not been pulled out of the grips at the plug or equipment. (The coloured insulation of the internal wires should not be visible)
 - **CHECK** the outer casing of the equipment for damage and **CHECK** for loose or missing parts or screws
 - Make sure that there are no overheating or burn marks on the plug, cable and equipment
 - **CHECK** the operation of the RCD power breaker by operating the test button.

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Tools using 110 volts should be checked weekly as in 26(d) above.

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CHECK regularly that all ventilation grills or holes on motor housings are clear and free from dirt.

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If the automatic cut-out operates, allow the motor to cool before re-starting.

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DO NOT use electrical equipment in damp, wet or flammable conditions.

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DO NOT carry equipment with the finger on the operating trigger or button.

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DO NOT carry the equipment by its cable or disconnect a plug by pulling its cable.

MACHINES POWERED BY COMPRESSED AIR

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CHECK that hoses and couplings are not damaged. A failure can cause injuries.

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Air hoses must be blown out before connecting to a pneumatic tool. Hold the open end securely and open the air cock **CAREFULLY**. A blocked hose can become an air gun.

- 35 **CHECK** that all couplings are secure. If a coupling parts the hose will "'whip''. **NEVER** attempt to catch and hold it down, turn off the air.
- 36 **DO NOT** lift the machine by its compressed air hose.
- 37 Only use compressed air for cleaning down equipment with extreme caution. Use eye protection and ear defenders.
- 38 **DO NOT** use compressed air to clean yourself and **DO NOT** direct it at another person.
- 39 **CHECK** that all air pressure is released from the hose before disconnecting any coupling.

HYDRAULIC MACHINES

- 40 The hydraulic tool operates within specific flow and pressure ranges. Only use the power pack supplied by the hirer. (Some tools and power packs have identification labels which should be checked to ensure that they are the same).
- 41 **WARNING.** Hydraulic tools are generally much quieter than pneumatic tools of the same weight, but they are usually **MORE** powerful.
- 42 **CHECK** hoses for deep cuts, exposed braiding, crushing, kinks, ballooning and damaged fittings and replace if necessary.
- 43 **CHECK** that couplings are clean and correctly engaged before starting work.
- 44 **DO NOT** disconnect or connect hoses with the engine running. An oil jet at pressure can cause serious injury.