

HEALTH & SAFETY



RISK ASSESSMENT: SHARP TOOLS

- **Risks** from working with sharp tools:
 - Severe cut, which could result in major blood loss or permanent loss of feeling / use of limb

- **Steps to take** to minimise the risk:
 - Keep yourself out of harms' way: ensure all movement of the sharp tool is away from your hands and body
 - Secure the workpiece. Grip the tool firmly
 - Wear gloves to protect your hands and fingers

Real life examples:

In April 2005, one of our handymen was using a Stanley knife to cut a carpet tile, using his other hand to hold the tile. The knife slipped and severely cut his hand, requiring emergency plastic surgery to repair the tendons and save the hand.

In 2004, another handyman was resting a workpiece on his thigh while cutting it with a Stanley knife. The knife slipped and the handyman severely cut his thigh. He was lucky not to sever an artery, which could have been fatal.