

# Using hand tools

Follow these guidelines for safe and effective use.

## Always wear the right protective gear:

- Sturdy shoes or boots with good ankle support. Always use steel capped boots if using slashers, axes, machetes or other sharp hand tools.



## Good practice

Make sure a stocked first aid kit and first aid trained person are on site.

- Always use properly sharpened and maintained tools
- Always carry spades and shovels etc. vertically, with the sharp edge pointing down, to ensure the 'business end' is always under your control
- Always carry sharp tools in a manner that does not endanger others
- Always keep the hand tool under your control and operating where you can see it
- Always maintain a safe distance from other members of the team
- Do not leave tools lying on the ground when they are not being used.