Landscaping – Working with Hand Tools Stats and Facts



FACTS

1. **Improper Tool Use:** Using hand tools like shovels, pruners, or trowels incorrectly (e.g., wrong grip, excessive force) can lead to cuts, blisters, or musculoskeletal strains, particularly in the hands, wrists, and back.
2. **Lack of Personal Protective Equipment (PPE):** Not wearing gloves, safety glasses, or sturdy footwear increases the risk of punctures, eye injuries, or foot injuries from sharp or heavy tools.
3. **Poor Tool Maintenance:** Dull, damaged, or dirty hand tools (e.g., rusty shears, loose shovel handles) reduce efficiency and increase injury risk due to slipping or excessive force.
4. **Repetitive Motion Injuries:** Prolonged use of hand tools for tasks like digging or pruning without breaks or ergonomic grips can cause repetitive strain injuries, such as tendonitis or carpal tunnel syndrome.
5. **Inadequate Training:** Workers without training on proper hand tool techniques, such as lifting with the legs or maintaining neutral wrist positions, are more prone to injuries during landscaping tasks.
6. **Tool Storage Issues:** Improperly stored hand tools, such as leaving rakes tines-up or piling tools unsafely, can cause trips, falls, or injuries when retrieving or storing equipment.

STATS

- The Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) reported in 2020 that landscaping workers had a non-fatal injury rate of 13.7 per 100 full-time workers, with 20% of injuries involving hand tools like shovels and pruners.
- WorkSafeBC noted in 2022 that 10% of landscaping injuries in British Columbia were linked to hand tool use, with cuts and strains from improper handling as leading causes.
- A 2021 OSHA report found that 15% of landscaping safety violations involved inadequate training or maintenance of hand tools, contributing to injuries like lacerations and sprains.
- The Canadian Centre for Occupational Health and Safety (CCOHS) stated in 2023 that landscaping companies with hand tool safety training reduced injury rates by up to 18%.

- A 2022 Journal of Occupational and Environmental Medicine study estimated that 25% of landscaping hand tool injuries were due to repetitive strain, preventable with ergonomic tools and breaks.
- A 2021 Statistics Canada survey indicated that 12% of landscaping workers reported musculoskeletal pain from hand tool use, often due to poor ergonomics or lack of PPE.
- The National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH) reported in 2023 that 8% of landscaping injuries involved hand tool-related accidents, with 50% linked to improper storage or maintenance.