



AmTrust North America
An AmTrust Financial Company

Safety Zone

Box Cutter Basics - Grocery

In the Grocery business, we cut boxes to include emptying the contents, storing materials, or displaying merchandise. Safety cutters are available, but some cutters do not have a depth guide or a blade guard. Whatever box cutter you use, cutting requires your full attention. For safety, never rush or force a cut.

Two main causes of box cutter injury are hurrying and using the wrong tool for the job. Getting distracted and taking the tool for granted are other reasons given by persons who have cut themselves seriously with a box cutter. Cutters are hazardous for several reasons, including the blade sharpness and the lack of a depth guide or a blade guard.

Here are other reasons for box cutter injuries.

- Cutting in an unsafe manner, such as cutting toward your body.
- Not being prepared for the possibility of the blade sticking, slipping, or getting dull.
- Not changing a dull blade.
- Forcing the cut.
- Cutting an unbalanced or unstable box.
- Not maintaining a good grip, thus letting a very sharp box cutter slip.
- Failure to wear leather gloves while cutting.

When you work with bladed tools, it is important to follow the company standard.

- Use the right tool for the task. Do not use a knife to cut open a box.
- Do not cut toward any part of your body.
- Do not place your fingers or the opposite hand in the way of the cut.
- Never use your thumb as a guide. Doing so places your thumb dangerously close to the blade.
- If you must cut thicker cardboard, use a larger blade. Trying to cut cardboard with a small precision knife can cause you to lose control of the blade.
- Be careful when changing the blade.
- Dispose of box cutter blades in approved, secured, non-tamper proof containers to prevent injuring others.
- Cover or store the blade when the knife is not in use.
- Remember that cutters have limitations.

How to inspect and use your box cutter

- Visually inspect the cutter before use. Check for excessive wear and ensure the cutter operates easily. Make certain all moving parts are free from debris and that the tool is clean.
- Check the blade. Dull blades are always unsafe. The duller the blade, the more force you must use.
- Use the cutter only for cutting. Injuries occur when workers use cutters or knives for uses other than their original design purpose. Never use a cutter for any purpose other than cutting.

- Pay close attention to the cut. Extend the blade only as far as is required to make the cut. Do not use your thumb as a guide. Cut away from your body and not toward yourself.
- Store the cutter in the closed position, and dispose of the spent blades in a tamperproof used blade container.
- Don't get distracted when using a cutter or knife. Never rush.
- With the help of your supervisor, understand the correct use of any cutter your job requires you to use.

Workers frequently receive little or no training when handed a box cutter for the first time. Never be afraid to ask your supervisor for training or re-training. To stay safe, ask for help and help others stay safe.

Are You In The Zone?

1. List four causes of box cutter injuries.
 - a. _____
 - b. _____
 - c. _____
 - d. _____
2. List three reasons box cutters can be hazardous.
 - a. _____
 - b. _____
 - c. _____
3. List three unsafe ways to use a box cutter.
 - a. _____
 - b. _____
 - c. _____
4. Before cutting, make sure your blade is _____.
5. How should you dispose of the blade after use?

I have received information on box cutter safety.

Employee Name: _____ Date: _____

For additional information and resources on this topic and other safety and risk management subjects be sure to visit the Loss Control section on our website:

<https://www.amtrustgroup.com/small-business-insurance/claims/prevention>

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