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## **COMPRESSED AIR**

### GENERAL

1. Compressed air is delivered at high pressure. If it enters the body it can rupture internal organs, cause blood clots, agonising injury, and death.
2. Horseplay with compressed air is expressly forbidden.
3. Do not use compressed air for any purpose other than that for which it is intended.
4. Never direct compressed air at yourself to blow dust off clothing or hair- serious injury could result.
5. Do not clean machines or benches with compressed air – use a brush or vacuum cleaner.

### COMPRESSORS

1. Guards must be maintained in position whenever the compressor is running.
2. The oil feed to the airline must be regularly topped up.
3. A compressor must not be operated in a confined space – adequate ventilation must always be provided.
4. The air receiver must be clearly marked with safe working pressure.



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5. Compressors are classed as a pressure vessel, and therefore must be periodically pressure tested, in accordance with current Regulations.

## HOSES

1. Hoses and couplings must be inspected regularly to ensure they are in good condition.
2. Hoses must be the correct size for the tool, with lengths as short as possible.
3. Hoses must be kept clear of corrosive liquids and materials.
4. Hoses must be positioned so as to avoid damage by passing traffic.
5. Ensure that hoses do not create tripping hazards.
6. Ensure that connectors are fully home and safely latched.
7. Always close a hose by the valve – never kink the hose.

## TOOLS

1. Make sure that your compressed air tool, hose and fittings are working properly.
2. When connecting a tool to the air line, keep a firm hold on the tool in case it whips.
3. Before changing tools make sure that the air line is closed or has an automatic shut-off valve.



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4. Ensure that, where applicable, the proper protective guard is fitted before use.
  5. Always use attachments which are correct for the speed of the tool.
  6. Always check the hose connections before starting work.
  7. When using jackhammers always stand with feet apart well away from the point.
  8. Operators of cutting, drilling or impact breaking tools must wear eye and hearing protection.
  9. Before disconnecting the tool, turn off the compressed air supply on the main air pipe to which your air pipe is connected. The air should be exhausted in the line at the tool end.
  10. The tool control lever must be released before moving the tool to another piece of work.
  11. The changing of points on a jackhammer must be undertaken with the tool in a horizontal position.
  12. Do not use blunt points.
  13. Ensure that points are securely seated before use.
  14. In the case of abrasive wheels, cutting wheels and discs, in accordance with the Abrasive Wheels Regulations, only operatives in possession of a certificate of training are permitted to change wheels or discs.



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15. Keep away all persons not directly involved in the activity.

FINALLY

1. Report any defect in the equipment or the system of work, and stop work immediately.