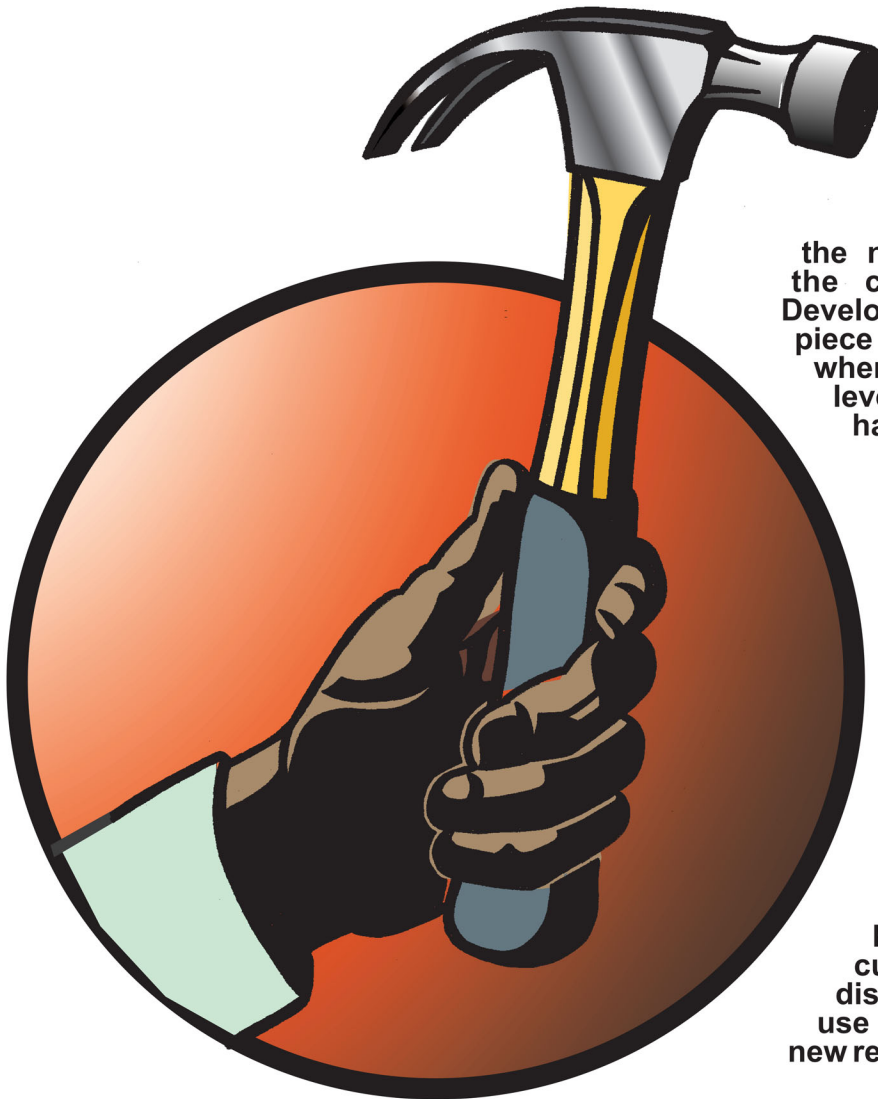


Company _____ Location _____ Date _____

Vol 27 - No 47**CLAW HAMMER SAFETY**

Almost everyone has used a carpenter's claw hammer sometime in their life and is quite familiar with its purpose that is to drive and pull nails. Perhaps you may think that there are really no safety concerns when it comes to using a claw hammer. However, carpenters learn the skill of driving nails quite early because after a few banged up fingers and knuckles it doesn't take long to figure there must be a safer way of driving nails quickly and safely.



One such method is called the "power grip". The "power grip" is the method of holding the nail with two or three fingers depending on the size of the nail and starting or tapping the nail into place first. After two or three hits the nail is set in place, then the hammer head strikes the nail full force, striking the nail head in the center squarely, firmly and level. Develop good rhythm when nailing. Using a piece of wood under the hammer head when pulling nails, will assist in the leverage and will reduce the chance of the handle breakage.

The hammer handle upon striking the nail head should almost be with the height of the nail head. This allows a nice even hit and doesn't mess up the wood with "fingerprints" or hammer marks. Choosing the correct hammer is also important. Claw hammers' range from 10-12 oz. for light finish work to 22-36 oz. for heavy framing and other heavy duty such as tearing out forms, etc.

Keeping all your hammers in good shape is important. Check for broken or cracked handles or loose hammer heads. If these are detected, cut the handle off and replace it or discard the hammer. Many carpenters use fiber glass handled hammers or the new resin handles with time for splintering.

Keep in mind any tool can be dangerous if not used correctly. Never hit two hammer's heads together because they could shatter and cause an eye injury. Always use the appropriate hammer for the job

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