

Box cutters are convenient and versatile—with retractable blades that allow you to adjust the blade length, enabling you to cut materials of various thicknesses with the same tool.

Because of their small size and widespread use, many people don't think of box cutters as potentially dangerous tools; however, they pose serious hazards because of how sharp their blades are, and certain precautions must be taken for safe use.

Tips for Safe Box Cutter Use:

- **Keep the blade sharp** - reduces tugging and pulling.
- **Shorten blade** - blade should be exposed just enough to cut through the material.
- **Secure material** - make sure material cannot move unexpectedly while cutting.
- **Keep blade covered** - retract blade as soon as possible and make sure it is protected by a cover before putting away.
- **Angle cut away from the body** - cutting away from you, rather than towards you, will prevent injuries in case of blade slippage.
- **Apply consistent but not excessive pressure** - reduces slippage.
- **Avoid keeping other hand near the blade** - instinct is to hold your other hand near the blade to keep the material from moving. If the blade is sharp there is no need to take the chance of slipping and cutting your finger(s).
- **Wear gloves** - prevents any smaller cuts from minor errors.
- **Change blades** - when changing blades, safely dispose of them in a puncture-resistant container.
- **Only use for intended purpose** - if material is too thick, find the right tool.
- **Routinely inspect cutters** - look for signs of rust, dullness, wear, and loose blades.

