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Avoiding injury during your DIY projects



Home improvement projects can be satisfying and cost-effective. Fixing or building something yourself often saves money and provides a sense of accomplishment. However, DIY projects can become dangerous when safety is overlooked. Many household tools are powerful enough to cause severe injuries if used improperly. Understanding the risks and avoiding common mistakes can help prevent accidents that lead to serious harm, including injuries that may result in the loss of fingers, hands, or other limbs.

One of the biggest mistakes people make during DIY projects is rushing. Whether building a deck, trimming branches, or repairing something inside the home, impatience can lead to careless actions. Taking shortcuts with tools or skipping important safety steps greatly increases the risk of injury. Slowing down and working methodically is one of the most important safety habits for any project.

Another common issue is failing to use proper safety equipment. Power tools such as circular saws, table saws, chainsaws, and angle grinders can cause devastating injuries in seconds. Wearing protective gear such as safety glasses, gloves, and hearing protection can reduce risk. When working with cutting tools, it is critical to maintain full attention and keep hands well away from moving blades.

Using the wrong tool for the job is another frequent mistake. Improvising with tools may seem

convenient, but it often creates dangerous situations. For example, forcing a saw through materials it was not designed to cut or modifying equipment can cause loss of control. Always use tools according to the manufacturer's instructions and make sure they are in good working condition.

Electrical projects are another area where homeowners often underestimate the risks. Turning off the correct circuit breaker before working on wiring is essential. Failure to do so can result in severe electrical shock or burns. If a project involves unfamiliar wiring or complicated electrical systems, contacting a licensed electrician is often the safest choice.

Heavy equipment and large tools also pose serious hazards. Equipment such as log splitters, wood chippers, and riding mowers have powerful moving parts capable of causing catastrophic injuries. Loose clothing, distractions, or attempting to clear jams while machinery is running can quickly lead to life-changing accidents.

Fatigue is another factor that contributes to injuries. DIY projects often take longer than expected, and working while tired can lead to poor judgment and slower reaction times.

DIY projects should improve a home, not result in a trip to the emergency room. By working carefully, using the proper tools, and respecting the power of equipment, homeowners can complete projects safely while avoiding preventable injuries.