

TOOLBOX TALK #12

VICE ADVICE

Vises can be used in a workshop for a wide variety of tasks. Workers should be careful to select a suitable vise that is strong enough for the work. Canadian safety experts have reviewed this situation and recommend the following when working with a vise:



- Attach the vise securely. Place bolts in all the holes in the base of the vise. Use lock washers under the nuts.
 - Mount the vise so the stationary jaw projects slightly beyond the edge of the workbench. This allows long work to be clamped without interference from the edge of the workbench.
 - Ensure that the workbench is secured firmly to its base.
 - Check the vise for damage before clamping anything in it.
 - Use a vise large enough to hold the work without strain.
 - Place the item in the vise so it is supported by the full clamping surface of the jaw.
 - Keep the piece in the vise as close as possible to the jaws to prevent vibration when sawing and filing.
- Support the end of extra-long work with an adjustable stand, saw horse or box rather than putting extra strain on the vise.
 - Keep all threaded and moving parts clean, oiled, and free of chips.
 - Use jaw liners in a vise where there is a possibility of marring the work.
 - Replace bent handles and worn jaw inserts.

In addition, make sure you never:

- Weld the base of the vise to any metal.
- Repair a vise by welding or brazing.
- Apply heavy pressure at the corner of the vise jaws.
- Use a handle extension for extra clamping pressure.
- Hammer on the handle to tighten beyond hand pressure
- Use the jaws of the vise as an anvil.
- Use any vise that has the slightest crack.
- Unscrew or open the jaws of the vise wider than intended.