

# Reducing Power Tool Down Time

Tradesmen invest significant sums of money to purchase the highest quality power tools available for construction, maintenance and utility work. A breakdown of a saw, drill or other power tool, however, can create havoc when completing a repair or project.

That's why power tools should always be cared for with respect. Otherwise, problems such as poor performance, tool malfunctions and safety hazards could result. Maintaining power tools is not complicated — it's just a matter of exercising some common sense. Here are just a few ways to reduce power tool down time.

## **Keep Them Clean**

A power tool's worst enemy comes in the form of several different types of abuse and misuse.

One common power tool enemy is the by-product that is created after each use. Foreign particulates such as sawdust, wood fragments and metal chips are some of the materials that can build up and harm power tools.

Thus, it is essential to clean power tools regularly. A good habit for workers to develop is to simply blow out the tool with an air hose after each use.

While a majority of hand tools and other equipment are used daily, many power tools may sit idle for days or even weeks.

Inactive tools can develop excess dust that can cause motor problems. It is best to store the tools in a dustless area or their protective cases.

## **Use The Right Tool For The Job**

Some people make the mistake of trying to save time by using equipment not designed to accomplish the job. For instance, someone may try to drill a 2" hole with a small capacity drill because that is the tool presently at hand. This likely will damage that piece of equipment. Instead, time should be taken to retrieve the proper tool for the specific task. Tools list their application capacities in the owner's manual.

## **Store Them Properly**

Proper storage is another important guideline to follow to enhance power tool life.

If left unprotected from weather, power tools can develop rust, both internally and externally. While it is easy to spot rust on the tool exterior, internal rust remains hidden and will ultimately cause equipment to malfunction.

Most manufacturers provide storage cases to protect tools from the elements. If a tool does not have a case, the investment should be made. Also, many cases allow one to store tool accessories and protect them from damage.