



Tool Safety Rules for Garden Beds Project

Welcome to the Altamont Free Library summer community service program! For this program, we will be transforming old wooden pallets into raised garden beds. Our hope is that through this program, you will gain tool safety skills, develop new building skills and discover the joys of gardening.

For this project, we will be utilizing power drills and drivers, hand saws, hammers and other hand tools. Our top priority is to keep everyone involved in this project as safe as possible. That means following all of the safety tips that we outline here, using common sense, always being aware of your surroundings and using appropriate protective equipment, such as eye protection. If at any point we feel that a particular participant is acting unsafely, we will ask that person to step aside relinquish their tools until we feel that they are able to act in a way that protects everyone's safety including their own.

With all that said, here are some safety rules that must be followed at all times.

Use Eye Protection and Safety Gloves Eye protection will be provided to all participants and must be worn any time you are using a tool or are in close proximity to others using tools. Safety gloves will not be provided or mandated but are highly recommended.

Keep Long Hair Back If a participant has long hair, it must be tied back or otherwise kept out of the way.

Wear Shoes—Not Sandals All participants must wear closed toe shoes or boots when using tools. Sandals are not acceptable.

Be Safe When Carrying Tools Tools should always be carried with their blades pointed down and away from your body. You may never run while carrying tools of any kind.

Cleanup After Yourself Sawdust and scrap wood are necessary byproducts of working with wood, but they also pose a safety risk. Always clean up after yourself and keep your work area and the ground that surrounds it clear.

Use the Right Tool for the Job A wrench is not a hammer and a screwdriver is not a chisel. Use tools only for their intended purpose and nothing besides.

Inspect Your Tools Before Use Make sure that your tools are in proper working order before you use them. If you notice cracks in the handle of a hammer or frayed extension cords or anything of the sort, don't use that tool. Set it aside and see if it can be fixed later.

Measure Twice, Cut Once Because you can't uncut a piece of wood once the deed is done.