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# Stay Safe Using Tools in Design and Technology

KS2

DESIGN & TECHNOLOGY

Ages 9-14 ⌚ 3 min read

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## Why Tool Safety Matters

When you're making something amazing in design and technology, you'll use lots of different tools. Hammers, saws, drills, scissors, and glue guns might seem simple, but they can cause real injuries if you're not careful. Following **safety rules** isn't just about following instructions—it's about protecting yourself and your friends from getting hurt.

## Dress Properly for Tool Work

Before you even pick up a tool, dress the right way. Wear **closed-toe shoes** so nothing can drop on your feet. Tie back long hair and tuck in loose clothing like ties or baggy sleeves. Remove **jewellery** like bracelets and rings that could get caught in moving machinery.

Think of it like getting ready for sport—you wouldn't play football in a dress or with dangling scarves, so don't work with tools in clothes that get in the way.

## Use the Right Tool for the Job

Never use a tool for something it wasn't designed for. Don't use a screwdriver as a chisel or scissors to cut metal. Each tool has a **specific purpose**, and using it correctly keeps you safer. Always ask your teacher if you're not sure which tool to use.

## Handle Tools with Respect

Treat every tool as if it could hurt you, because it can. Keep your hands and fingers away from cutting edges and sharp points. When you're not using a tool, put it down carefully in a safe place—never leave sharp tools lying around where someone might trip over them. Always pass tools to someone **handle-first**, never blade-first or point-first.

Think of it like handling a friend's pet—you need to be calm, careful, and aware of where its teeth or claws are at all times.

## **Follow the Rules Every Time**

Your teacher gives you **safety instructions** for a reason. Listen carefully, follow them exactly, and never skip steps to save time. Wear **safety goggles** when instructed, use clamps to hold materials steady, and keep your workspace clean and organised. If you're injured or see someone else get hurt, tell an adult immediately. Tool safety isn't boring—it's the difference between an amazing project and a trip to hospital.