

# Box Cutter Safety

## *Tips for how to use this handy gadget safely*



**Box cutters are great tools for slicing through bulky material quickly and easily. They are also versatile because many models have retractable blades, which allow you to modify the blade length depending on the thickness of the material being cut.**

In spite of their many conveniences, box cutters pose dangers, especially if you are using the wrong type of cutter for the task at hand.

### Types of Box Cutters

- Carton Cutters
  - Come with removable guards that guide the user for quicker carton cutting.
- Razor Blade Knives
  - Cutters that convert to straight-edge scrapers depending on the angle at which the user sets the blade.
- Retractable Blade Knives
  - Contain breakaway points that snap off to reveal a new sharp cutting edge.
- Utility Knives
  - Used to cut through boxes, fiberboard, wallboard, linoleum, carpeting, roofing material and paper.
  - Open in three or more positions and retract when not in use.
- Film Cutters
  - Feature hook-like blades to cut through stretch film, plastic strapping twine and foam packing materials.

### Safety Precautions

To prevent injuries while using one of the many types of box cutters, consider the following safety recommendations.

- Wear cut-resistant gloves made of metal mesh.
- Always cut away from your body.
- Never use your thumb to stop a blade from cutting.
- Extend the blade only as far as needed based on the thickness of the material you are attempting to cut. You will get more leverage, have more control and will lessen the likelihood of damaging the contents inside the box.
- Give box cutters to co-workers with the handle pointed out.

### Cuts from Metal Pose Other Dangers!

Cutting yourself with metal objects such as box cutters not only causes bleeding and swelling, it can also put you at risk of getting tetanus. If you cut yourself and have not had a tetanus shot in the last five years, you may be at risk of developing a life-threatening infection.

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