



UTILITY KNIVES

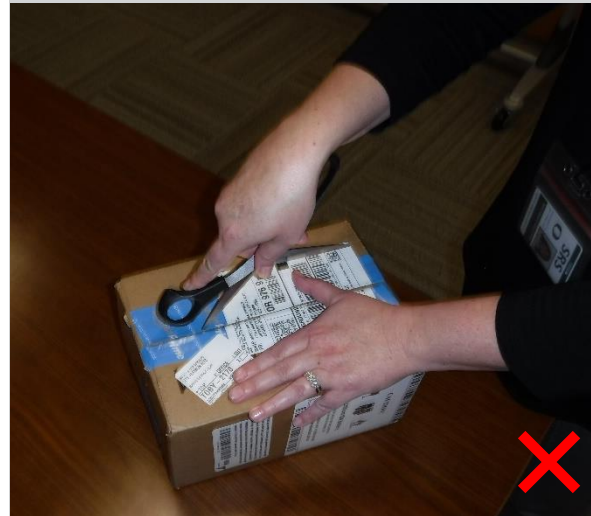
Also known as box knives or box cutters, are a useful tool that have a variety of functions in the workplace ranging from scoring sheetrock to opening boxes. Utility knives have resulted in many workplace injuries to University of Oregon employees, some of which have been severe. The most frequent injury occurs when the user loses control of the knife and the blade strikes the opposite hand or other body part. This type of injury can be painful and usually requires immediate medical attention. As such, it is important to always use safe workplace practices.

WHAT TO DO!

- Consider replacing a utility knife with a ceramic blade box cutter. EHS recommends the Slice Auto Retractable Box Cutter as pictured below.
- Use the tool the way that it was intended.
 - Do not use a utility knife to turn screws or to pry open containers. This could cause the blade could break, which could throw a piece of the blade into your eye or work area.
- Always cut on a firm and stable surface!
 - Never use an unstable surface when using a utility knife.
- Keep the blade sharp!
 - Dull blades can cut irregularly, get caught in the material, and cause you to apply more force which increases the risk of injury.
 - Change the blades when they become dull or damaged. Always dispose of the used blades in a sharps container!
- Keep the blade covered!
 - When you are done using the blade, retract it.
 - Never transport an open knife.
- Cut away from your body!
 - If you cut at an angle, you are less likely to cut yourself if your hand slips.
- Keep your other hand and thumb away from the blade!
- Wear a cut glove on non-dominant hand!
 - Cut resistant gloves do not prevent injury; they may reduce the severity.
 - Make sure to carefully read the specifications and look for gloves that have Kevlar or stainless-steel fabric.
 - If using a cut glove, then store the knife in the glove.



Cut at an angle away from your body, keep your thumb and other hand away from the blade, and use the proper tool for the job to prevent injuries



Scissors should not be used to open boxes.



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EHS recommends the [Slice Auto-Retractable Box Cutter](#)

