

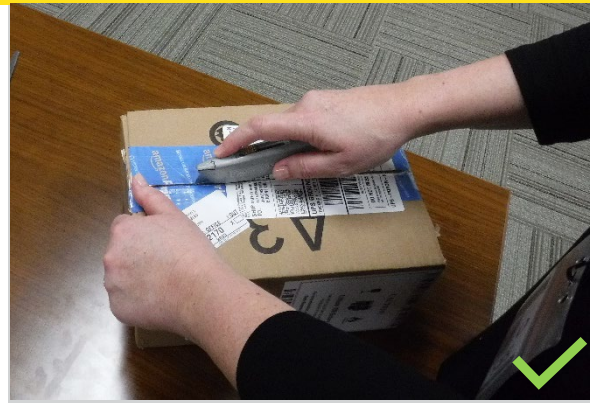


UTILITY KNIVES

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. Box cutters are a common tool that have resulted in many workplace injuries to University employees. The most frequent injury is called a line-of-fire injury, where the user loses control of the knife and the blade strikes the opposite hand or other body part. This type of injury can be very painful and usually requires immediate medical attention. As such, it is important to always use safe workplace practices

WHAT TO DO

- Use the tool the way that it was intended.
 - Do not use a box cutter 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 your lap or 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're done using the blade, retract it.
 - Never transport an open knife.
- Cut away from your body!
 - If you cut at an angle, then 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 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 this way to open boxes, and you should cut away from your hand and body



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For general office use, EHS recommends the [Slice Auto-Retractable Box Cutter](#)

