

Assistance from the Public and the Safe Use of Skill Saws

Recently a Customer has suffered a Serious Harm Injury while assisting a Contractor who was undertaking urgent work on a hot water cylinder. The Customer cut a piece of timber for the Contractor with the Customer's own skill saw. The guard failed to return and the blade contacted his upper leg. This resulted in a significant laceration and the Customer was transported to hospital by ambulance to undergo emergency treatment. Whilst it can be appreciated that people want to help, this serves as a reminder that members of the public are not a resource and should not be allowed to carry out contract works, nor should the Customer's tools or equipment be used instead of the Contractors.

Safe Use of Skill Saws

Skill saws can only be used by trained and competent users!

Pre-use requirements:

- Ensure that equipment appropriate for the task is selected
- Only select equipment with a suitable guard that is in good condition
- Use only your own equipment – never use equipment offered or supplied by a Customer
- Ensure that equipment is regularly serviced and tested every 3 months by a certified electrician or other competent person
- Always use with a an industrial or commercial grade multi box and a Residual Current Device (RCD) or equivalent electrical safety device
- Check equipment daily before use
 - Ensure the equipment is in sound, undamaged condition, the blade is suitable