HAMMERS

Hammers and other striking tools are perhaps the most widely used, and probably the most often abused of all hand tools. They are made in various types, sizes and configurations for specific purposes. They should be selected for their intended uses and used only for those purposes for which they are designed. Misuse can cause the striking face to chip, possibly resulting in eye or other serious injury. Proper use of virtually all types involves certain basic rules:

- A hammer blow should always be struck squarely with the hammer striking face parallel with the surface being struck. Always avoid glancing blows and over and under strikes.

- When striking another tool (chisel, punch, wedge, etc.), the striking face of the proper hammer should have a diameter approximately 3/8” larger than the struck face of the tool.

- Always use a hammer of suitable size and weight for the job. Don't use a tack hammer to drive a spike, nor a sledge to drive a tack.

- Never use one hammer to strike another hammer or a hatchet.
Never use a striking or struck tool with loose or damaged handle.

**WRONG**

Discard any striking or struck tool if tool shows dents, cracks, chips, mushrooming, or excessive wear.

**RIGHT**

Never regrind, weld or reheat-treat a hammer.