NAIL HAMMERS

Description. Nail hammers are made in two patterns; curved claw and straight or ripping claw. The face is slightly crowned with the edges beveled, although certain heavy-duty patterns may have checkered faces designed to reduce glancing blows and flying nails. Handles may be wood, tubular or solid steel, or fiberglass. Tubular steel, solid steel and fiberglass are generally furnished with rubber-type grips which are occasionally used also on wood handles.

Proper Uses. Nail hammers are designed for driving unhardened common and finishing nails only and nail sets, using the center of the hammer face. The claws are for pulling common and finishing nails and ripping woodwork and should not be struck against metal.

Abuse/Misuse. Never strike one hammer with another hammer or a hatchet. Never strike concrete, steel chisels or similarly hard objects with a nail hammer as the hammer face may chip, possibly resulting in eye or other serious bodily injury.

Wrong

Never use a hammer with loose or damaged handle. Never strike with the side or cheek of a hammer.

Warning: Hardened steel-cut, pole barn and masonry nails should never be driven with a nail hammer. These nails may shatter or may cause a hammer face to chip with an indirect or glancing blow, and should never be driven unless safety goggles are worn. When not driven through a piece of wood, a hole should be started with a small star drill or masonry bit. A hand drilling hammer or sledge is the proper tool to use.

When to Replace. Discard any hammer if the striking face or its bevel show dents, chips, mushrooming or is excessively worn, or if the claws show indentations or nicks inside the nail slot, or if claw is broken. If handle only is damaged, replace it with an equivalent new handle.