

### Advise staff to:

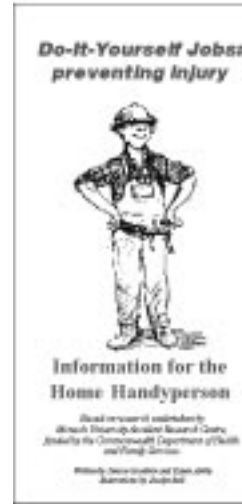
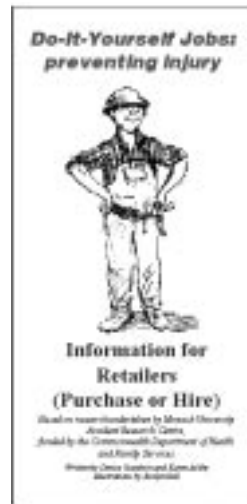
- wear personal protective equipment appropriate to the task at hand
- wear protective eyewear that is:
  - comfortable
  - size adjustable (no gaps between frame and face)
  - scratch resistant
  - fog resistant
  - able to be worn with corrective glasses
- wear gloves that:
  - fit comfortably while maintaining sufficient control over finger movement
- wear non-slip footwear with nail-resistant soles and steel caps, where appropriate
- wear hearing protection
- read the 'DIY jobs: preventing injury - information for the home handyperson' brochure

*Allowing workers to borrow tools and personal protective equipment from the workplace will give access to better quality tools with improved, up-to-date safety features and good quality protective equipment. All those factors reduce the risk of DIY injury.*

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### Also in this series:



For more information or copies of the brochures contact:  
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Wellington Road, Clayton Vic. 3168 Australia  
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*Do-It-Yourself Jobs:  
preventing injury*



## Information for Workplace Managers

*Based on research undertaken by Monash University  
Accident Research Centre,  
funded by the Commonwealth Department of Health  
and Family Services*

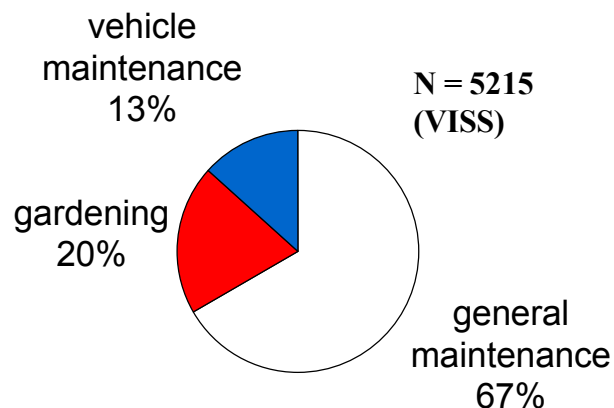
*Written by Karen Ashby and Densie Goodwin  
Illustrations by Jocelyn Bell*

Australians are enthusiastic Do-It-Yourselfers. Injuries from Do-It-Yourself (DIY) jobs are common yet preventable.

*Injuries at home result in more days lost from work than 'on the job' injury. DIY activities account for 12% of off-the-job adult emergency department visits in Victoria.*

*Many DIY injuries would be prevented if the safe work practices and principles developed and applied in the workplace were used in the home.*

- Five times as many men as women experience injuries from DIY activities
- The peak age for injury is 30-34 years
- 75% of DIY injury occurs at home, most commonly during grinding, lawn mowing or ladder use.



- Injuries are mostly finger and hand lacerations or foreign bodies in the eyes

*A number of practices should be implemented to encourage 'off-the-job' safety practices among your workers.*

### What can workplace managers do to prevent DIY injury?

- Create a culture of safety at work which encourages the transfer of safe work practices to the home
- Allow personal protective equipment to be borrowed for use at home
- Allow tools to be borrowed for use at home
- Offer training in the correct use of the borrowed equipment if it is not the tool regularly used by the worker
- Provide safety information to workers
- Hold a safety seminar for workers
- Include safety information in workplace newsletters
- Work with other companies to develop off-the-job safety policies and strategies
- Keep records on days off work that are the result of DIY injury to identify the cost to your company and to assist in the development of prevention strategies

### Most DIY injuries are caused by:

- grinders (metal or dust in the eye)
- lawn mowers (cuts to fingers/legs)
- ladders (fractures of ribs/wrists)
- power saws, particularly circular and chainsaws (cuts to fingers/hands)
- welding equipment (flash burns/foreign bodies in eyes)



*DIY injuries are usually caused by: non-use of personal protective equipment, inappropriate tools, unsafe work practices and insufficient safety precautions*