

# Ari's Tip of the Week

# SAFETY

## Heavy Construction Contractors Association

### Cleaning Tools to Help Prevent Spread of COVID-19

Should a tool need to be cleaned, that does not have blood or visible bodily fluids on it, the following protocol is recommended:

This protocol is subject to the recommendations of the Centers for Disease Control ("CDC"), OSHA, and those of State and Local health departments. Please follow applicable guidelines of these agencies.

- People handling tools should wash their hands or use a proper hand sanitizer before and after use to help prevent contamination.
- People handling tools should be properly trained and protected using necessary Personal Protective Equipment (PPE).
- Clean tools with mild soap, a clean damp cloth, and, as needed, an approved diluted bleach solution only. Certain cleaning agents and solvents are harmful to plastics and other insulated parts and shouldn't be used.
- Cleaners that have conductive or corrosive materials, especially those with ammonia. Some of these include gasoline, turpentine, lacquer thinner, paint thinner, chlorinated cleaning solvents, ammonia and household detergents containing ammonia are NOT recommended
- Never use flammable or combustible solvents around tools.

#### CLEANING OPTIONS:

##### 1. MILD SOAP & REST

- If no blood was present on the product, it can be **cleaned with mild soap and a damp cloth to remove the fluids and then left to rest for 3 days**. This is based on CDC advisement that the virus may live on plastic surfaces for up to 72 hours, which suggests that the virus would no longer be harmful after the resting period. After this, the tool can be cleaned again.

\*Recommended for batteries

##### 2. MILD SOAP & DILUTED BLEACH SOLUTION

- If no blood was present on the product, it can be **cleaned with a mild soap and damp cloth to remove dirt and grease and then decontaminated with a diluted bleach solution**, which is consistent with CDC advise. The full diluted bleach cleaning procedure can be found below.

\*Not recommended for batteries

#### PROCEDURE

1. Clean the product surface with mild soap and water to remove dirt and grease.
2. Dip a clean cloth into the dilute bleach solution.
3. Wring out the cloth so it is not dripping wet.
4. Gently wipe each handle, grasping surfaces, or outer surfaces with the cloth, using care to ensure liquids do not flow into tool.
5. No other cleaning material should be used as the diluted bleach solution should never be mixed with ammonia or any other cleanser.
6. Allow the surface to dry naturally.
7. The cleaner should avoid touching their face with unwashed hands and should immediately wash their hands after this process.

\*A properly diluted bleach solution can be made by mixing:

- 5 tablespoons (1/3<sup>rd</sup> cup) bleach per gallon of water; or
- 4 teaspoons bleach per quart of water

**NOTE:** If blood was on the product, advance cleaning is needed. Follow established Bloodborne Pathogen protocols for your business. Under OSHA requirements, anyone required to perform this type cleaning should be trained in Bloodborne Pathogens and the use of the necessary PPE for this work.



## HCCA is offering safety training through video conferencing.

- OSHA 10 & 30
- Work Zone Basic & Intermediate
- Erosion & Sediment Control for Contractors Course (ESCCC)

[Click Here for the Safety Training Calendar](#)

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