



Utility Knife Safety

Nearly every workplace has some type of utility or safety knife, but it's important to choose the right knife for the specific application. Using the wrong knife for the application can result in serious injury to the fingers, hands, or even the legs. In general, safety knives are appropriate for thin cardboard or paper, as well as shrink wrap or thinner plastics. However, if the application involves thick cardboard, plastics, rubbers, or plastic straps, a knife is probably not the best tool for the job.

Here are some general safety tips for when a utility or safety knife is right for the job:

- Do not use the knife if the blade is dull—have replacement blades available
- Do not dispose of used blades in trash cans
- Only use enough blade to make the necessary cut—more exposed blade can lead to a more serious injury
- Cut away from the body—keep hands, fingers, arms, and legs out of the cutting path
- Close the knife after each use
- Do not store the knife in the open position

In addition to the tips listed above, an employee should also consider wearing safety glasses (blade tip breakage) and cut-resistant gloves. Knives with self-retracting blades are also beneficial since the exposed blade will retract back into the housing once cutting pressure is no longer being applied.

Martor® offers a variety of different styles of safety/utility knives as seen in the promotional flyer below. They have a [useful resource](#) listing all their knives into “Safety Level Ratings.” The overall scale is 1-5 with 1 being the safest (bladeless) and 5 being the most unsafe (manually retractable or fixed blade).

Martor® also has [training videos](#) for each of their knives.

We offer several Martor safety knives on [our website](#).

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