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# Safety with tools



## Why?

- To make pupils aware of safe working practices in the garden.
- To make pupils aware of the dangers of different tools.
- To show pupils how to handle tools safely and correctly.

## Gardening group activity

### Materials

All the garden tools you will be using, including gloves. Signs, hoops, markers (Yes/No).

This could be a warm up activity for the group. It could be repeated throughout the year to reinforce safe work practices if it is found that tools are not being used safely.

- 1 Before the class arrives place the two signs / hoops / markers a few metres either side of the central area.
- 2 Place tools and equipment safely in wheelbarrow and place in centre between markers.
- 3 Gather pupils around teacher in centre. Hold first tool and ask 'Is this dangerous?' – pupils then have to go and stand on either the 'yes' or the 'no' areas.

All tools have the potential to be a hazard, so ask the pupils what the potential dangers could be.

Explain why that tool can be a hazard and show how to use it safely.

Never carry tools over shoulders.

Repeat with all of the tools in the barrow, (list of tools, their hazards and safe use is listed overleaf).

### Curriculum links

#### Key Stage 1

English EN1: Speaking & listening, interaction.

#### Key Stage 2

English EN1: Speaking & listening, interaction.



Tool	Hazard	Safe use
<b>Spade</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Cut into foot</li> <li>• Back strain</li> <li>• Trip hazard</li> <li>• Take care working near others</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Wear suitable footwear. Correct use of spade.</li> <li>• Use tool suitable for height, dig keeping straight back. Break up work.</li> <li>• Store in wheelbarrow, or stand in ground. Do not lie on ground.</li> <li>• Ensure space around workers. Never carry tools on shoulders. Do not swing tools about.</li> </ul>
<b>Fork</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Fork into foot</li> <li>• and as above</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• As above</li> </ul>
<b>Rake Broom</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Risk of being hit in face if laid on ground.</li> <li>• Back strain</li> <li>• Trip hazard</li> <li>• Take care working near others</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Store in wheelbarrow, or balance against fork handle (provided it's not a trip hazard) or stand against wall with head at top.</li> <li>• As above</li> </ul>
<b>Hoe</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Back strain</li> <li>• Trip hazard</li> <li>• Take care working near others</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• As above</li> <li>• Need to be aware of others working in vicinity, so as not to push hoe into their feet.</li> </ul>
<b>Hand trowel Hand fork</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Wrist strain</li> <li>• Back strain</li> <li>• Trip hazard</li> <li>• Kneeling</li> <li>• Take care working near others</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Correct size tool. Variation in jobs – good planting practice – plants / containers for weeds close by to avoid stretching.</li> <li>• Use kneeler pad, especially on hard surfaces to protect knees.</li> <li>• Ensure space between workers, do not flick soil. Do not swing tools around.</li> </ul>
<b>Wheel- barrow</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Back strain</li> <li>• Trip hazard</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Do not carry loads that are too heavy. Lift keeping the back straight and knees bent.</li> </ul>
<b>Watering can</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Back strain</li> <li>• Trip hazard</li> <li>• Take care working near others</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Do not carry loads that are too heavy. Lift keeping the back straight and knees bent.</li> <li>• Don't get water on others. Mop water from surfaces.</li> </ul>
<b>Hose pipe</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Trip hazard</li> <li>• Take care working near others</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ensure that the hose is coiled out carefully to ensure those nearby do not trip.</li> <li>• Don't get water on others. Mop water from surfaces.</li> </ul>
<b>Gardening gloves</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Preventative</li> <li>• Soil / compost in eyes / face</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Gloves are beneficial when handling soil / compost. Important to ensure pupils do not rub face when wearing.</li> </ul>
<b>Compost</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Back strain</li> <li>• In eyes / face</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Safe lifting practice. Do not lift if too heavy.</li> <li>• Do not flick compost about with trowels.</li> </ul>
<b>Pots</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Back strain</li> <li>• Trip hazard</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Safe lifting practice. Do not lift if too heavy.</li> </ul>
<b>Canes</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Damage to eyes</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Use cane toppers to cover bare ends of canes so that they do not poke in the eye when bending over.</li> </ul>