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SAFETY INFORMATION

Prior to using any pneumatic tool, the operator must read and understand the operating and safety instructions provided with each tool. The operator should be verbally instructed by his supervisor on the safe operating practices when working with pneumatic tools.

EYE, FACE, AND BODY PROTECTION

Eye protection must be worn at all times when operating American Pneumatic Tool hammers (or any air tools), any debris large or small can become a projectile. All visitors or other personnel in the immediate area where an air tool is being used must also wear eye and ear protection. Eye protectors must meet the following requirements:

- Provide adequate protection against hazards for which they are designed.
- Be reasonably comfortable when worn under the designated condition.
- Fit snugly without interfering with the movements or vision of the wearer
- Be durable
- Be capable of being disinfected and cleaned
- Be kept in good working condition

Impact resistant face protection should be used in situations where there is exposure to tool operation or when deemed necessary. Impact resistant face protection should be worn over the eye protection and is not intended to take the place of eye protection.

Safety shoes and/or steel toe shoes must be worn at all times by anyone operating pneumatic tools or by anyone in the immediate area.

Safety hard hats must be worn at all times by anyone operating pneumatic tools, particularly when doing overhead work or by anyone in the immediate area.

Loose fitting clothing or jewelry of any type must not be worn when operating pneumatic tools.

Safety Precautions:

Wear approved protective gear such as hard hats, safety shoes, goggles, and face shields. **Do not alter or remove any safety features.**

Read and understand the metallic safety labels bonded to the air tool. Do not attempt to remove these safety labels, they are there for your protection and safety and that of others.

Check that the air throttle is operating properly and that retainers are not worn out. Faulty or badly worn chuck bushings and pistons are a primary cause of excessive shank wear and destruction of the striking end of the tool.

Misuse is dangerous. Tools should be used only for those purposes they were designed for. If there are any questions regarding the proper usage, contact the AMERICAN PNEUMATIC TOOL Customer Service Department.

Start your work with reduced air pressure and avoid burying the tool. Tools that run idly are subject to a build up of stresses. Always use a firm and steady pressure when running an air tool. Using any air tool as a lever or prying instrument is dangerous and will cause tool damage.

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SAFETY INFORMATION Continued

TOOL MAINTENANCE AND OPERATION

All APT tools must be inspected to make sure they are working properly prior to operation. All components must be checked to make sure they are tight and there are no missing or damaged parts. **DO NOT** turn the tool towards your body or towards anyone else. **ALWAYS** work with the tool firmly pointed toward the workface. Operation of hammer without the impact being applied to workface may result in injury and damage to the hammer. **NEVER** adjust, remove, repair, or store American Pneumatic Tool hammers without disconnecting the air supply first. **NEVER** change tool steel or any accessories without disconnecting the air supply and relieving the hose of air pressure. **NEVER** leave an idle tool connected to the air supply to prevent accidental actuation. The air supply must be turned off at the source or at the air compressor. Keep all spectators away from the work area. If there must be spectators, they must be kept at a safe distance from the workplace where pneumatic tools are being operated. **ALWAYS** inspect the tool steel carefully for cracks or damage. **NEVER** operate pneumatic equipment with damaged tool steel. Be sure the tool steel is properly sharpened. Consult your tool steel catalog for proper selection of tool steel for the application. **DO NOT** touch tool steel or other air hammer accessories while the tool is working. Wear gloves and make sure rubber handles fitted with all APT T-handle models are in place. **NEVER** attempt to use a pneumatic tool without a retainer. **ALWAYS** inspect retainers for damage or excessive wear and do not use damaged or worn retainers. Check all bolts for proper torques. American Pneumatic Tool suggests the use of air regulators to ensure a recommended air pressure of 90 psi. **ALWAYS** inspect all air hoses for cracks, worn threads, damaged or loose quick disconnect couplings in order to prevent injury resulting from a whipping air hose. Look out for excess air hose around the work area to prevent tripping and falling. Ensure proper footing and balance when operating any air tool.

VIBRATION

The nature of the work with pneumatic tools can be uncomfortable to the operator. Prolonged use of pneumatic tools can lead to “white fingers” or other related vibration caused health disorders. American Pneumatic Tool offers ergonomic air hammers designed specifically to reduce the harmful vibration to the hands and arms of the tool operator. APT ergonomic tools improve the operator’s safety and comfort without reducing the power of the tool.

NOISE

Prolonged exposure to noise caused by normal operation of pneumatic equipment may lead to hearing disorders. OSHA regulates the maximum sound level to which an operator may be exposed. Hearing protection should be used by anyone operating pneumatic equipment or anyone exposed to noise caused by the operation of pneumatic equipment. American Pneumatic Tool recommends the use of APT mufflers designed to reduce the noise level of APT Air Tools.

Please take the time to ensure your safety and that of others. It is impossible to cover in this catalog all the possible dangers of operating pneumatic tools, ALWAYS use common sense and good judgement. If you have any doubts concerning the safe operation of American Pneumatic Tool air hammers contact the APT factory at (800) 532-7402 or (310) 538-2600. Please make sure operators read and understand the safety label bonded to each American Pneumatic Tool air hammer. Please take the time to read the safety instructions sheet enclosed with each tool at the time it is sold and the safety information in this catalog. Please contact your nearest distributor or American Pneumatic Tool should you require extra copies of safety instructions. All air tool operators should be properly trained in the safe and efficient use of pneumatic equipment. Any defective or malfunctioning APT air tool should be immediately disconnected from the compressor and returned to the APT factory for repair or to an authorized American Pneumatic Tool service center.

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OPERATING INSTRUCTIONS FOR APT AIR TOOLS

Air Pressure

Recommended air requirements for the operation of APT tools is 90psi. Lower air pressure will decrease power. For proper CFM rating please refer to the specification chart shown for each tool in this catalog.

Hose Size

APT recommends the use of at least 1/2 inch I.D. or larger hoses to assure sufficient air flow to the tool. For portable compressor hose and longer lengths, 3/4 inch hose is recommended.

Connecting Hoses

Hoses should be rated for a minimum of 250 psi. Before connecting the air hose to the tool, check the tool inlet connector to be sure it is clean and free of dirt and foreign material. Keep dirt and other materials from entering the tool to assure long and satisfactory operation.

Tool Operation

Install the proper accessory steel into the tool. Place the tool steel onto the pavement or work surface and hold the tool firmly. Feet should be placed squarely on the ground to maintain balance. Actuate the throttle lever in the handle to operate the tool. Never operate an air tool without the correct size accessory steel properly installed, and held firmly in contact with the work surface. Do not leave tool lying idle with the air supply pressure on. Never point the tool toward anyone or toward any surrounding objects. To stop operation, release throttle lever in the handle.

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LUBRICATION OF PNEUMATIC TOOLS

Oil is the essential element necessary to guarantee maximum tool life and performance. The most significant factor contributing to failure or premature wear of any air tool is the lack of lubrication or the use of an improper lubricant. Lack of lubrication will result in overheating of the piston, tappet, rifle bar, etc. Repeated overheating will quickly cause piston failure by either breaking the piston or by scoring the cylinder. AMERICAN PNEUMATIC TOOL recommends using a light oil to lubricate its percussion type tools such as Chipping Hammers, Rivet Busters, Clay and Trench Diggers, Paving Breakers, Tampers as well as the 9 lb. and 15 lb. Rock Drills. This lightweight oil should be an Air Tool oil, 10W motor oil, or an equivalent grade ATF fluid. Air Tool oil contains rust and oxidation inhibitors which help reduce the negative effects of moisture penetrating the tool through the air line. APT recommends using a lubricant especially formulated for use in its heavier 38 lb. and 61 lb. Rock Drills. Rock Drill oil is a high viscosity oil, soluble, and thick.

Special additives in both Air Tool oil and in Rock Drill oil along with the correct grade permits the oil to withstand the extreme pressures, velocities and temperatures of air tool operation.

Some of the air tools manufactured by APT have built-in oil reservoirs. These built-in automatic oilers have a capacity of about 1-1/2 ounces which provide between 2 and 4 hours of lubrication. The operator must make sure that the oil reservoir is refilled. To be safe, this should be done about every 2 hours of operating time.

It is recommended that all APT air tools be used with an in-line oiler of sufficient capacity to guarantee 8 hours or more of operation. The capacity of these in-line oilers oil range from 3.7 fluid ounces to 16 fluid ounces. Oilers come equipped with a metering screw inside the reservoir which allows the operator to adjust the oil flow from light to heavy mists of oil. To install an in-line oiler, use a whip hose to place it approximately 8 ft. away from the tool. Attach the oiler end to the air supply hose and attach the other end to the tool using standard hose fittings. Ensure that the lubricator is installed properly by checking the oil flow indicator arrow on the side of the lubricator.

Please refer to
the Accessories section in this Maintenance Manual for APT in-line oilers ordering information.

To obtain more information
about the types of air tool oil that oil manufacturers recommend, please consult your local dealer or the AMERICAN PNEUMATIC TOOL Customer Service Department.

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