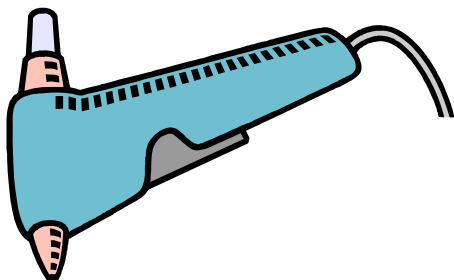


#56

HOT GLUE-GUN SAFETY

Clover Safe notes are intended primarily for 4-H volunteers and members nine years and older.



Information available from the U. S. Consumer Product Safety Commission indicates most hot glue-gun injuries that resulted in hospital treatment during 2006 were burns to the fingers and hands. Fewer injuries were due to the splashing of hot glue material into the eyes. Most of these injuries could have been prevented if the hot glue-gun user kept focused on the gluing task and followed several simple safety precautions.

Pre-Use Activities

- Thoroughly review and understand information provided in the hot glue-gun operator's manual with particular attention given to descriptions of safety procedures.
- Before using, always inspect the hot glue gun for damage to the casing. In addition, assure the on/off switch (if equipped) is functioning properly and inspect the electrical cord and plug for fraying or other damage.
- If the hot glue gun fails your inspection, inform your group leader, parent, or guardian and remove it from use.

Operating Precautions

- Always wear leather or heat resistant gloves and safety glasses or goggles when using a hot glue gun.
- Keep the hot glue gun away from flammable materials and use in work areas that are clean and dry.
- Use a wire or metal safety stand to hold the hot glue gun when you are not using it to glue items. Never lay a hot glue gun on its side.
- Place a piece of paper or cardboard under the safety stand to catch hot glue drips and prevent damage to the underlying surface.
- Always focus on the gluing task. If you need to look away from gluing, stop using the hot glue gun and place it in the safety stand.
- Do not touch the heated nozzle of a hot glue gun.
- Prevent inhalation of hot-glue vapors by using the glue gun in well ventilated areas.
- Never point a hot glue-gun nozzle at another person
- Unplug the glue gun and allow it to cool before changing the nozzle.
- Do not tilt a hot glue-gun nozzle upwards or attempt to use a hot glue gun to glue overhead items.
- Never leave a plugged in hot glue gun unattended.
- Skin that comes in contact with hot glue should be immediately plunged into cold water.
- If hot glue contacts an eye, irrigate the eye with cold water and seek medical attention immediately.
- If you are injured by a hot glue gun, notify your project leader, parent, or guardian. Seek medical attention if the injury is serious.